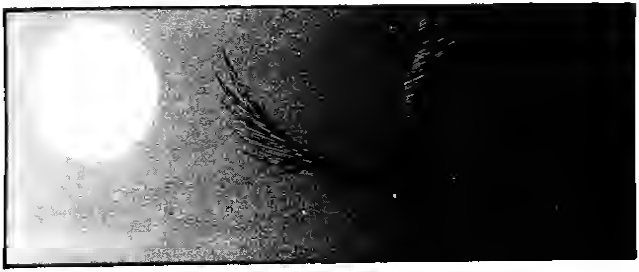
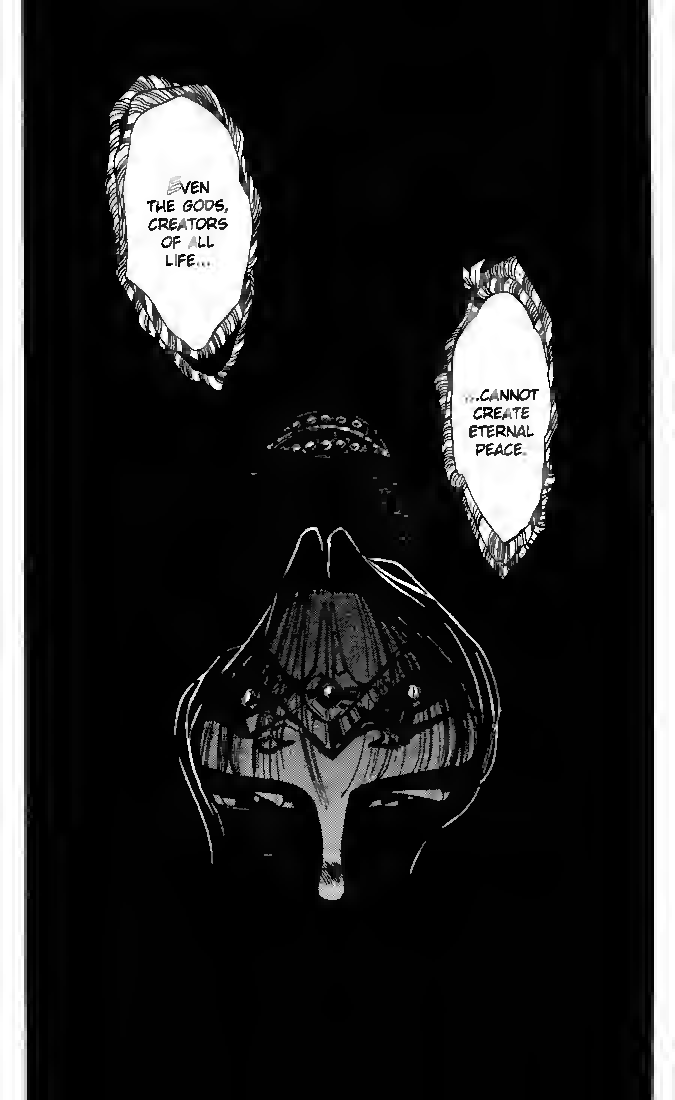



EVEN THE GODS, CREATORS OF ALL LIFE...
...CANNOT CREATE ETERNAL PEACE.

AT THE BITTER END, THE GODS DIVIDED INTO LIGHT AND DARKNESS
WITH THEIR COLOSSAL STRENGTH THEY BURNED THE LANDS AND DRIED THE SEAS

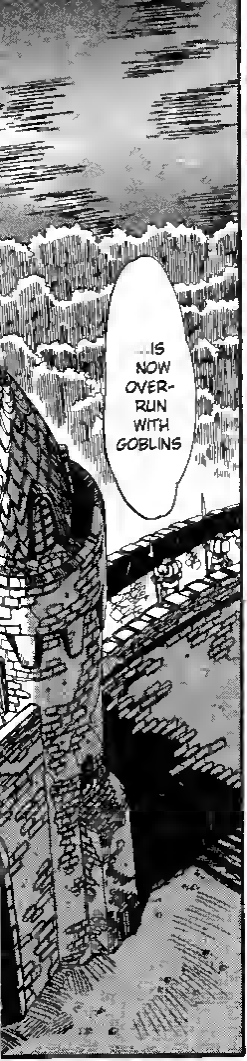
THEY DREW THE LIVES THEY HAD CREATED INTO THE TUMULT.
THE SAVAGE FIGHTING CONTINUED TO ESCALATE.
KARDIS GODDESS OF DESTRUCTION CURSED THE LAND
MARFA, GODDESS OF CREATION, SEPARATED THE CURSED LAND FROM THE CONTINENT.

UNENDING PROSPERITY AND ETERNAL PEACE ARE UNATTAINABLE.
EVEN TO THE GODS.
SO HOW CAN IT BE THAT THE BEINGS OF THE ACCURSED ISLAND OF LODOSS ARE ABLE TO ATTAIN THEM?

ONCE HUMANS EXPERIENCE LONG PERIODS OF PROSPERITY...
THEY RECKLESSLY DESIRE MORE POWER THAN THEY DESERVE.
UNABLE TO CONTROL THE POWER THEY HAVE ACQUIRED...
THEY LOSE ALL THAT THEY THEMSELVES HAVE BUILT.
THEY INEVITABLY PERISH AT THE END OF THEIR FRENZY.

THESE FOOLISH ACTS MUST NOT BE REPEATED

THE PALACE OF KANON.
ONCE LAUDED AS THE GREATEST IN ALL OF LODOSS...


...IS NOW OVER-RUN WITH GOBLINS

RAWR

THEY NOW HAVE A NEW MASTER.

HOW PECU-LIAR
EH?
VAGNADO?
IS SOME-THING THE MATTER? IT'S NOT LIKE YOU TO BE LOST IN THOUGHT
I WAS WONDERING WHICH IS THE BETTER OF TWO EVILS...
...THE ROTTEN SOULS OF THESE HIDEOUS GOBLINS OR THE HEART OF A CORRUPT EX-HERO ??

YOU MUST BE JOKING?!

HOW CAN YOU EVEN THINK TO COMPARE YOUR HEART TO THAT OF A GOBLIN, YOUR MAJESTY?
JOKING, AM I?

SO, WHAT IS IT THAT YOU WANT?

THAT WITCH, KARLA...
I HAVEN'T SEEN HER AROUND OF LATE

HMPH!

NO!
THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT!
SO IT SEEMS THAT MARMO'S OWN IMPERIAL SORCERER DOESN'T LIKE TO LET OTHER SORCERERS HAVE THEIR WAY.

I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT SHE'S THINKING SOMETIMES.

I SUGGEST YOU BE CAUTIOUS WITH HER

ONE SLIP COULD LEAD TO DEATH.

ON MARMO, WE WERE SURROUND-ED BY EVIL OF EVERY SORT.

IT'S A FACT OF LIFE

YES, IT IS.
KARLA IS ON HER WAY TO VALIS. SHE SAID SHE'S GOT SOME TRICKS UP HER SLEEVE
EVEN WITH-OUT SNEAKY LITTLE TRICKS...
I WILL TAKE KING FAHN!

WITH MY STRENGTH!!

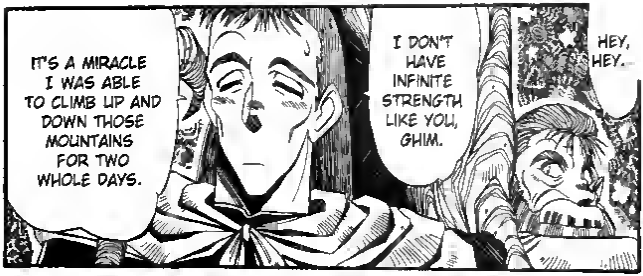
IT'S GETTING HOTTER AND HOTTER EVERYDAY

SUMMER, EH?

YEAH, IT'S ALMOST...

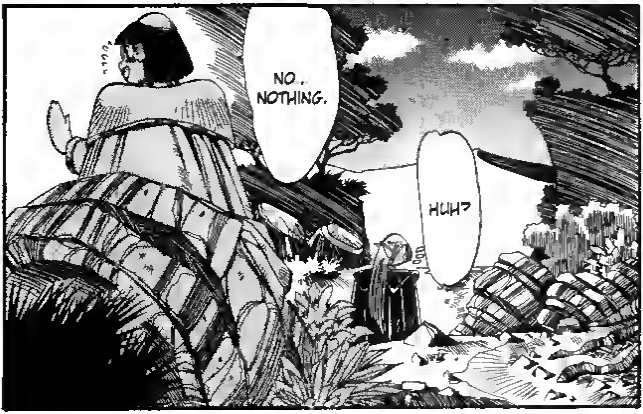
I DIDN'T KNOW THAT.

YOU CAN'T TAKE THE HEAT BECAUSE ALL YOU DO IS STAY HOME AND READ BOOKS.


IT'S A MIRACLE I WAS ABLE TO CLIMB UP AND DOWN THOSE MOUNTAINS FOR TWO WHOLE DAYS.
I DON'T HAVE INFINITE STRENGTH LIKE YOU, GHIM.
HEY, HEY.

BUT WHEN I'M HUNGRY, YOU CAN'T GET ME TO MOVE.
THAT'S DIFFER-ENT.

HA HA HA
WHAT'S SO FUNNY, ETOH?

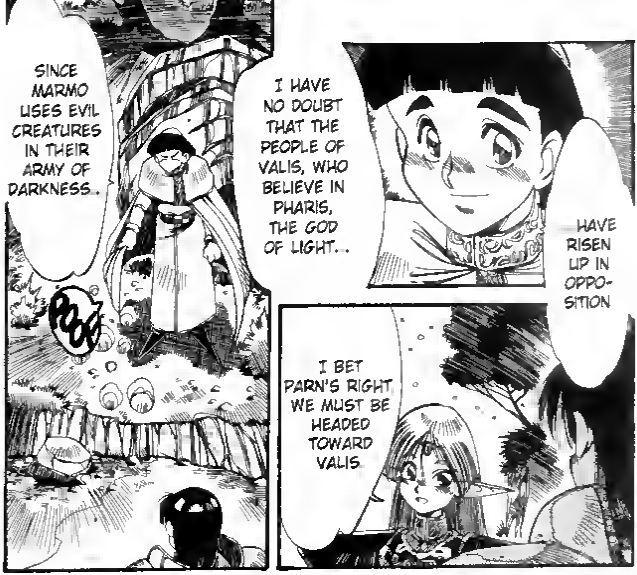

NO, NOTHING.
HUH?

THESE LOOK LIKE HORSE TRACKS.
WHAT'S WRONG, DEEDLIT?
THE ROAD SEEMS AWFULLY PITTED, DOESN'T IT?
THE ROAD?
YOU'RE RIGHT!
IT IS PITTED.
CLAP! CLAP!
BY THE LOOK OF THESE HOOF PRINTS, I'D SAY A LOT OF HORSES CAME THROUGH HERE RECENTLY.

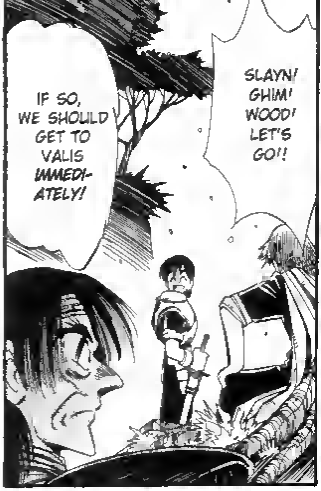
HMM...
I'D GUESS...
THEY CAME FROM THE DIRECTION OF VALIS.
VALIS?

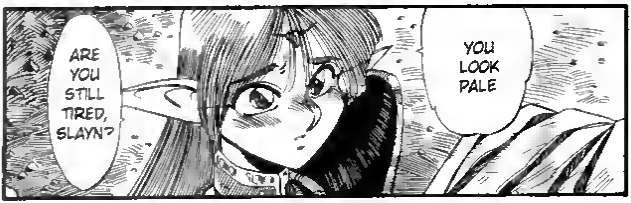
YEAH...
MAYBE...
THE VALISIAN ARMY MAY HAVE PASSED THROUGH HERE.

I BET YOU'RE RIGHT!!
VALIS MUST HAVE RISEN TO ARMS!!

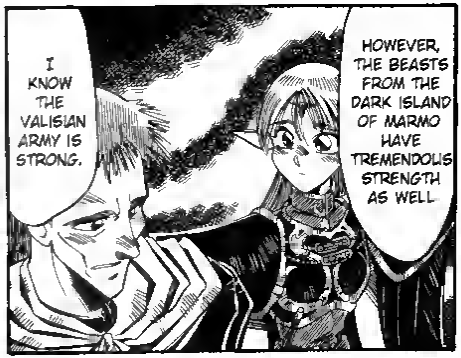

SINCE MARMO USES EVIL CREATURES IN THEIR ARMY OF DARKNESS.
I HAVE NO DOUBT THAT THE PEOPLE OF VALIS, WHO BELIEVE IN PHARIS, THE GOD OF LIGHT...
HAVE RISEN UP IN OPPOSITION
I BET PARN'S RIGHT WE MUST BE HEADED TOWARD VALIS.

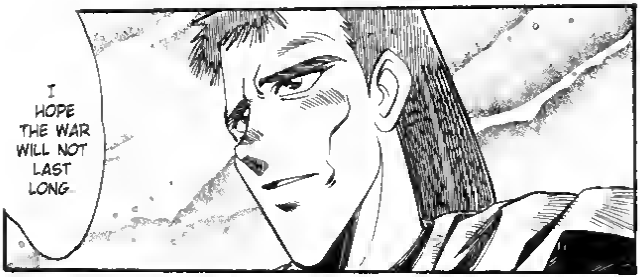
KING FAHN COMMANDS THE FAMED HOLY ORDER OF KNIGHTS!
THEY MUST HAVE RISEN UP AGAINST BELD'S TREACHERY!
HE WOULDN'T LET BELD GET AWAY WITH THIS ATROCITY!


IF SO, WE SHOULD GET TO VALIS IMMEDIATELY!
SLAYN! GHIM! WOOD! LET'S GO!!


ARE YOU STILL TIRED, SLAYN?
YOU LOOK PALE

NO, I'M FINE


I KNOW THE VALISIAN ARMY IS STRONG.
HOWEVER, THE BEASTS FROM THE DARK ISLAND OF MARMO HAVE TREMENDOUS STRENGTH AS WELL.

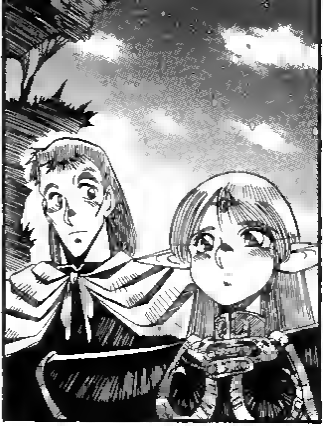

I HOPE THE WAR WILL NOT LAST LONG.

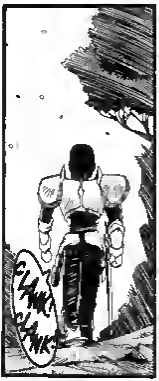
THERE'LL BE MORE AND MORE VICTIMS EACH DAY.

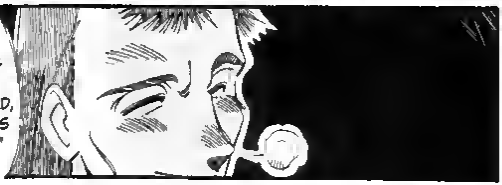
DEEDLIT... YOU MUST REMEMBER THE LAST WAR AGAINST EVIL.
YES, I DO.

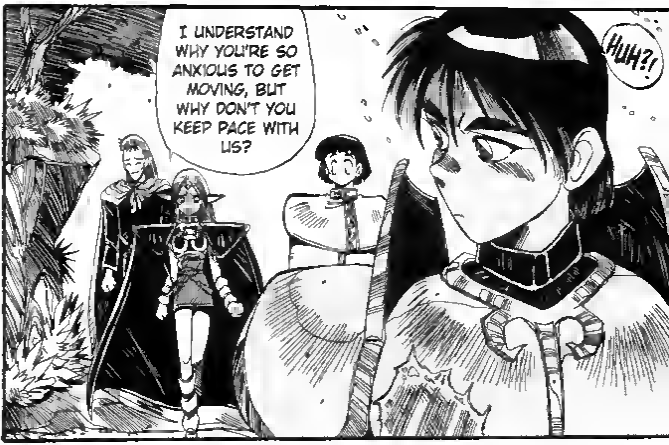
I COULDN'T FIGHT THOUGH.
I REMEMBER THAT MANY VILLAGERS WERE KILLED.
I KNOW ALL ABOUT THE STRENGTH OF THE BEASTS OF DARKNESS.

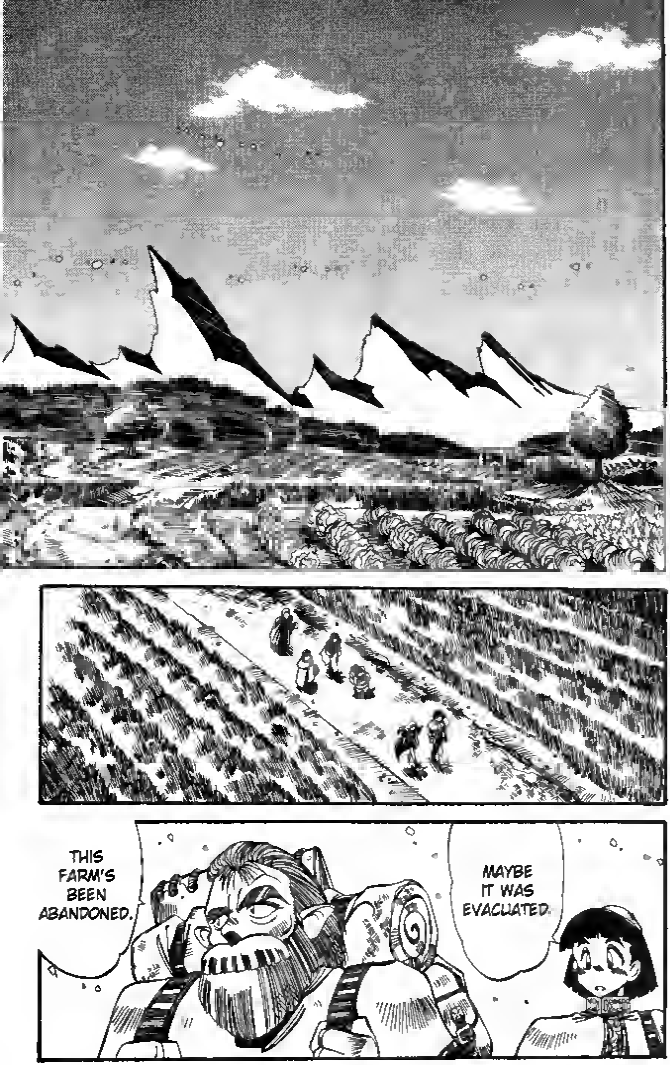
BUT I DIDN'T COME OUT OF THE FOREST TO FIGHT.
THIS TIME I'M GOING TO DO WHATEVER I CAN TO HELP. I'M NOT GONNA JUST SIT BACK AND WATCH AGAIN.

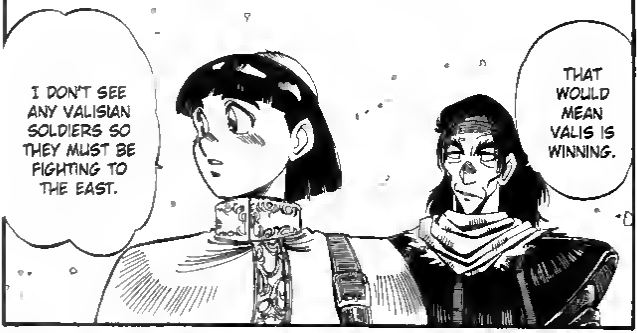



CLANK
CLANK


AS SHE HAS SAID, "AS LONG AS YOU KEEP MOVING FORWARD, YOU CAN ALWAYS FIND RADIANCE."

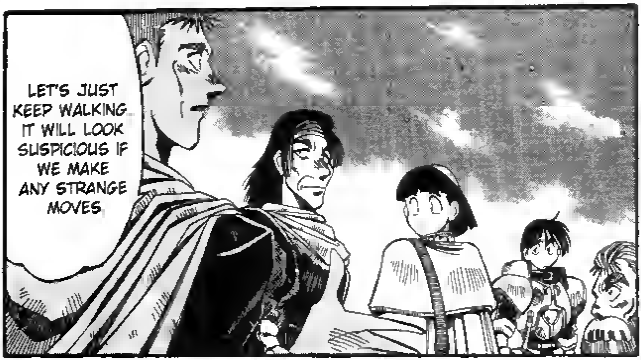

I UNDERSTAND WHY YOU'RE SO ANXIOUS TO GET MOVING, BUT WHY DON'T YOU KEEP PACE WITH US?
HUH?!


THIS FARM'S BEEN ABANDONED.
MAYBE IT WAS EVACUATED.


I DON'T SEE ANY VALISIAN SOLDIERS SO THEY MUST BE FIGHTING TO THE EAST.
THAT WOULD MEAN VALIS IS WINNING.

PROBABLY...
!
?
SOME-THING'S COMING...
...FROM THAT DIRECTION

AH-HAH.
YES!


LET'S JUST KEEP WALKING. IT WILL LOOK SUSPICIOUS IF WE MAKE ANY STRANGE MOVES.

HE'S RIGHT.

clop! clopclop clop clop!

KARLA.

WHAT IS IT?

THERE ARE SOME PEOPLE COMING THIS WAY

THEY SEEM TO BE ARMED...

AND IT LOOKS LIKE THEY HAVE A KID WITH THEM

A KID?

THEY'RE NOT VALISIAN SOLDIERS, ARE THEY?

I DON'T THINK SO.

ALL RIGHT THEN...

LET'S NOT BOTHER WITH THEM.

BUT BE ON YOUR GUARD JUST IN CASE...

GOT IT.

WE'RE ALMOST IN KANON

WE WON'T LET ANYONE INTERFERE WITH US NOW

.. WILL WE, PRINCESS FIANNA?

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RECORD OF LODOSS WAR

The Grey Witch

Story by Ryo Mizuno

Ryo Mizuno is the world renowned creator of the entire **Record of the Lodoss War** universe. The story you now hold in your hands, **The Grey Witch**, is the first **Lodoss War** story Mr. Mizuno ever wrote. Looking back at all his works, he feels that **The Grey Witch** is the most primitive, from his standpoint as its writer. For this reason, Mr. Mizuno says that he often gets embarrassed after re-reading **The Grey Witch**. However, he loves Mr. Ochi's beautiful illustrations and is extremely satisfied with the way his characters were brought to life in this comic book.

Art by Yoshihiko Ochi

Mr. Ochi would like to share one of his favorite proverbs with **Lodoss War** readers: *"In looking ahead to the future, one must always reflect upon the past."*

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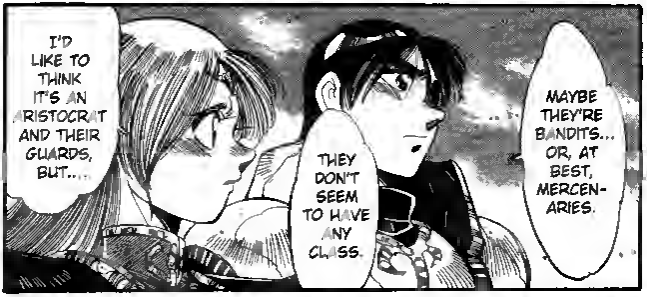
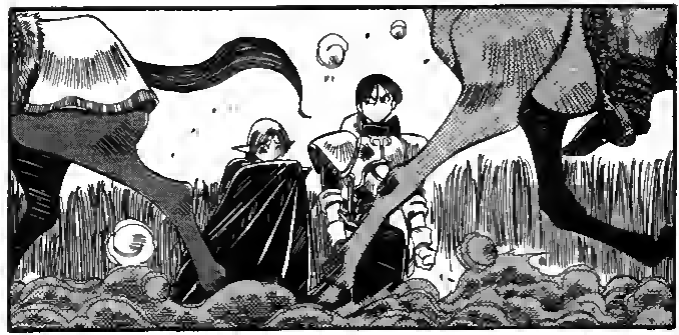
CLOP! CLOP! CLOP!
WHAT DO YOU THINK?
THE CARRIAGE IS GORGEOUS


I'D LIKE TO THINK IT'S AN ARISTOCRAT AND THEIR GUARDS, BUT....
THEY DON'T SEEM TO HAVE ANY CLASS.
MAYBE THEY'RE BANDITS... OR, AT BEST, MERCENARIES.

WELL, WE MUST LOOK LIKE A STRANGE BUNCH TO THEM AS WELL.
A DWARF, A PRIEST, A SORCERER AND A THIEF.
AN ELF, A SOLDIER...

WE DO LOOK ODD.

HEIGH!



AWFULLY HOT, ISN'T IT?

IT MUST BE ROUGH WALKING.

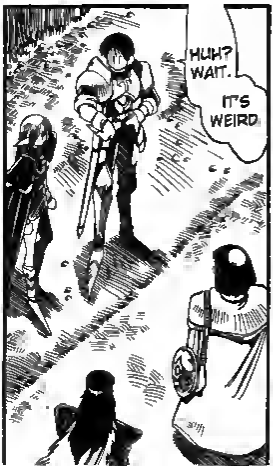
IT SURE IS.

NOW GET LOST.

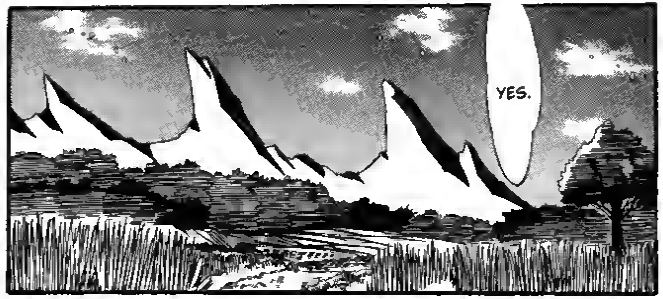
I WONDER...
WHO'S IN THERE?
KA-KLUMP! KA-KLUMP! KA-KLUMP!
BOY, THAT GUY'S SMOOTH.
OH!
neigh!
HMMM? WHAT'S WRONG, SLAYN?
KIKITA RIKITA RIKITA

WOMEN? I WISH I COULD SAW THAT.
WERE THEY CUTIES?
THERE WERE TWO WOMEN INSIDE.
BUT THEY DIDN'T SEEM TO WANT TO BE SEEN.
THEY WERE HIDDEN BY THE HORSES.

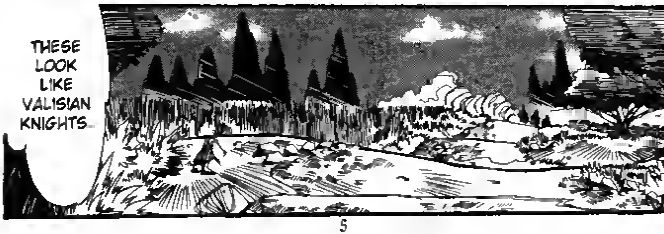
I COULDN'T SEE THEIR FACES.


HUH? WAIT.
IT'S WEIRD.

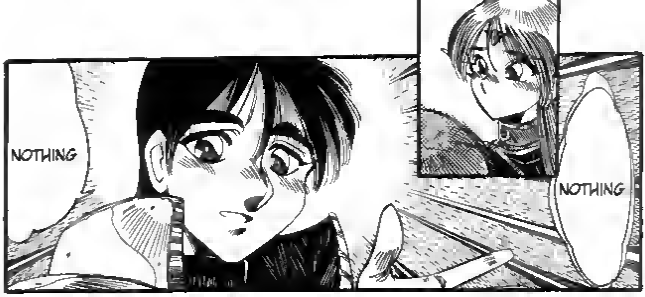
ISN'T THE BATTLEFIELD OVER THERE?

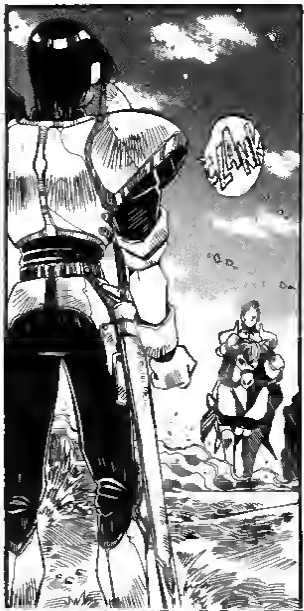

YES.

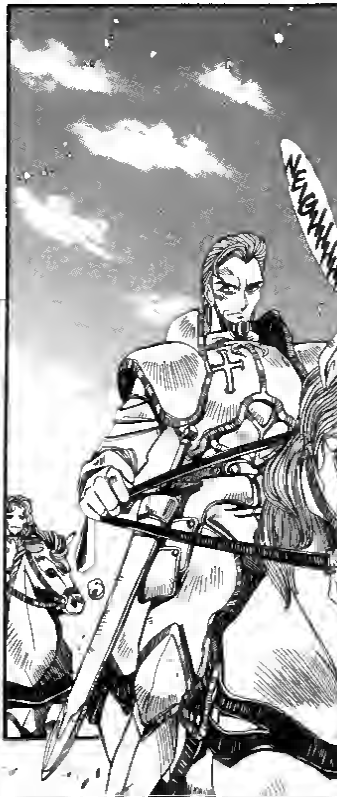
HUH?
MORE?!


THESE LOOK LIKE VALISIAN KNIGHTS.

!
WHITE HORSES AND WHITE ARMOR
THEY'VE GOT TO BE THE VALISIAN KNIGHTS
THE VALISIAN...
...HOLY ORDER OF KNIGHTS
MY FATHER WORE THAT SAME ARMOR.
THE EXACT SAME!
PARN ?
WHAT'S WRONG?


NOTHING
NOTHING




NEIGHHHH

WHERE ARE YOU FROM?
WE'RE TRAVELERS FROM ALLANIA...
PASSING THROUGH THIS LAND ON OUR WAY FROM WAR-RAVAGED KANON.
HEH HEH... THAT'S RIGHT.
I SEE HOWEVER, I AM UNABLE TO TRUST YOU ENTIRELY JUST YET.
PLEASE EXCUSE ME.

OH, SACRED AND ALMIGHTY GOD, BESTOW UPON ME THY STRENGTH...
JUST BECAUSE YOU'RE A HOLY KNIGHT...
DOESN'T MEAN YOU CAN PUT A SPELL ON US!
DON'T YOU THINK YOU'RE BEING RUDE?!
MY NAME IS ETOH!
I WAS GRANTED OFFICIAL PRIESTHOOD AT THE PHARIS MONASTERY IN ALLAN
IT MAKES NO SENSE THAT YOU, A HOLY KNIGHT, SHOULD EMPLOY THE POWER OF SACRED SORCERY...
..SIMPLY BECAUSE YOU'RE SKEPTICAL
WELL.. I'M TERRIBLY SORRY.

I DID NOT KNOW YOU WERE A PHARIS CLERIC.

AS WE ARE IN A HURRY ...

...I MERELY SOUGHT TO USE THE POWER OF PHARIS TO ASSIST US.

WE ARE NO LONGER SUSPICIOUS OF YOU.

I BEG YOUR FORGIVENESS.

IT'S ALL RIGHT. IT WAS JUST A MISUNDERSTANDING

UHH...

YES?

BY CHANCE, ARE YOU CHASING TROOPS WITH A HORSE-DRAWN CARRIAGE?

!

BECAUSE WE JUST PASSED AN ODD BAND OF MEN AND A CARRIAGE.
DO YOU KNOW WHO THEY ARE?
THERE WERE TWO WOMEN...
YOU SHOULDN'T ASK SO MANY QUESTIONS

AND PLEASE DO NOT BREATHE A WORD OF THIS TO ANYONE ELSE.
HYAAH!

DID WE SEE SOME-THING WE SHOULDN'T HAVE?

I'M NOT SURE ...

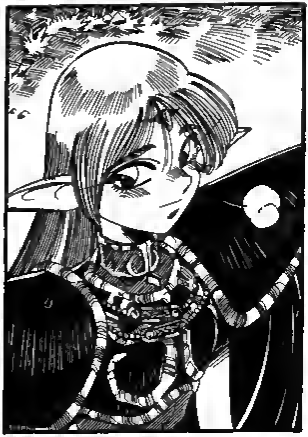
HE SEEMED KINDA ANXIOUS.

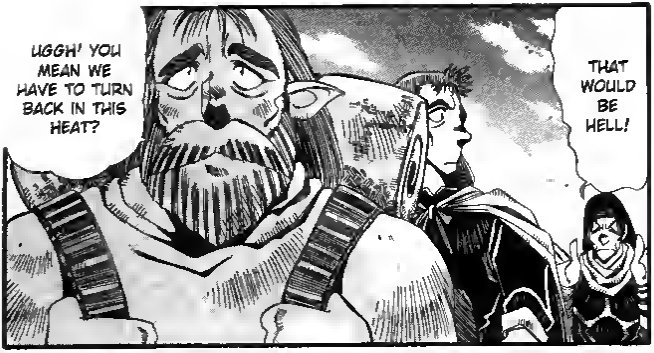
MAYBE WE SHOULD FOLLOW THEM AND SEE WHAT'S UP.

ARE YOU WORRIED?

IF HOLY KNIGHTS ARE CHASING THAT CARRIAGE...

...IT'S GOTTA BE SOME-THING BIG.



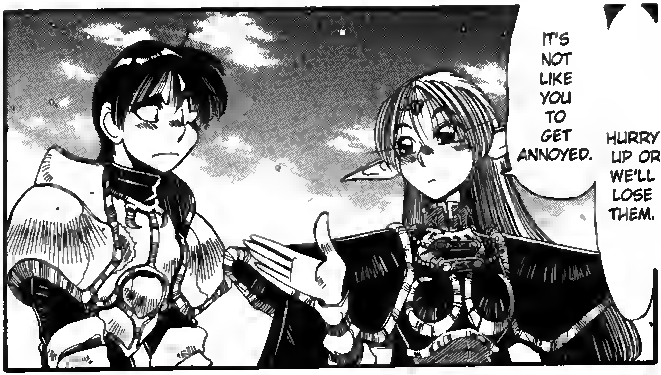

UGGH! YOU MEAN WE HAVE TO TURN BACK IN THIS HEAT?
THAT WOULD BE HELL!

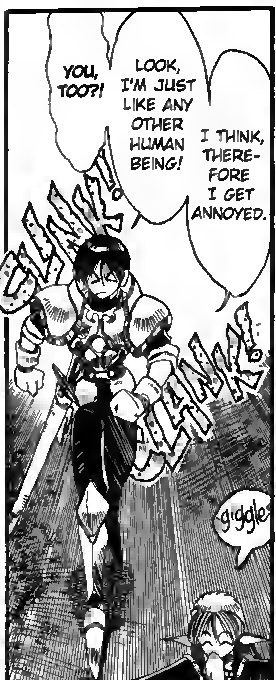
WHAT? IS SOMETHING WRONG?

EVEN IF WE TRY TO STOP YOU, YOU'LL FOLLOW THEM ANYWAY, RIGHT?

THAT'S HOW HE IS.

WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSE TO MEAN, ETOH?


IT'S NOT LIKE YOU TO GET ANNOYED.
HURRY UP OR WE'LL LOSE THEM.


YOU, TOO?!
LOOK, I'M JUST LIKE ANY OTHER HUMAN BEING!
I THINK, THERE-FORE I GET ANNOYED.
giggle

OH, IS THAT SO?
AND HERE I THOUGHT IT WAS JUST THAT YOU WERE IMPULSIVE!

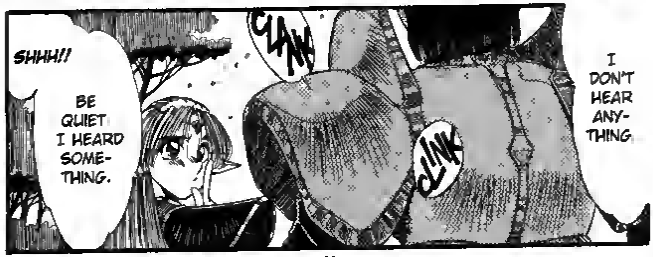
I'M NOT SOME RECK-LESS KID, DEED!

CLINK
CLANK
YOU THINK WE CAN CATCH THEM ON FOOT?
I WISH WE HAD HORSES

HUH?

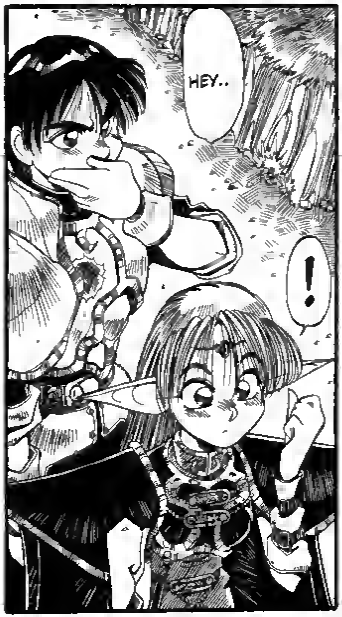
HUUUG!
WHAT'S THAT NOISE?

WHAT'S WRONG, DEED?
CLANK CLANK
CLANK


SHHH!!
BE QUIET. I HEARD SOME-THING.
CLANK
CLANK
I DON'T HEAR ANY-THING.

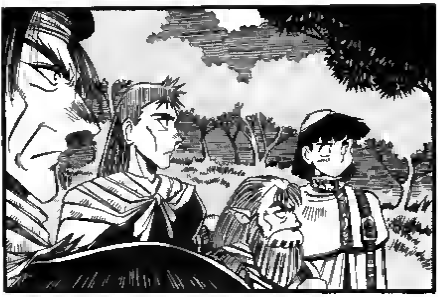
ELVES' EARS ARE A LOT MORE SENSITIVE THAN HUMANS'.
I'M TRYING TO CONCENTRATE, SO STOP RATTLING YOUR ARMOR.

HMPH!


HEY..
!

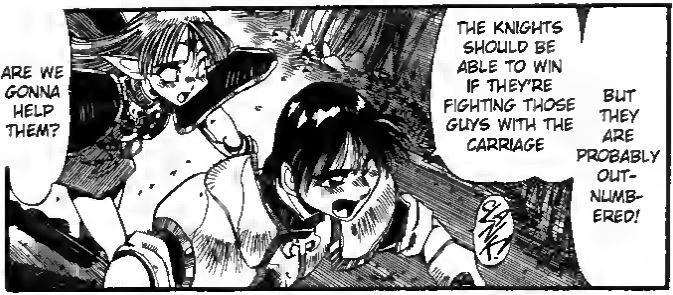
YOU DON'T HAVE TO STOP BREATHING.
RELAX.

I HEAR SHOUTING
AND METAL STRIKING METAL
IT'S DEFINITELY A BATTLE!

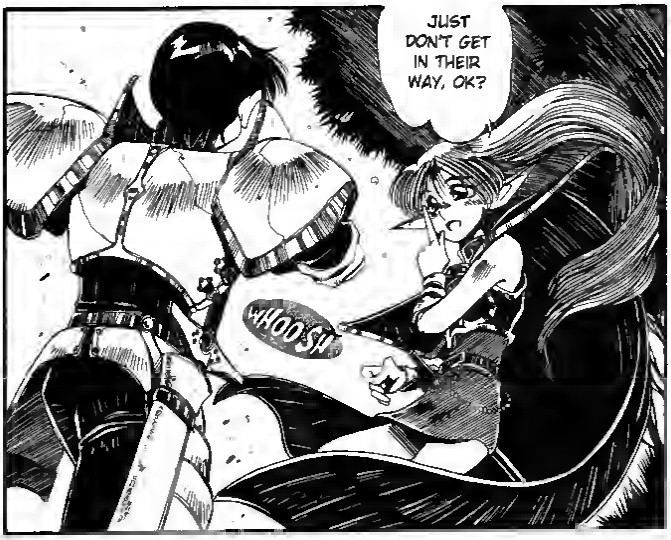


IT MUST BE THE KNIGHTS!!
CLANK
CLINK

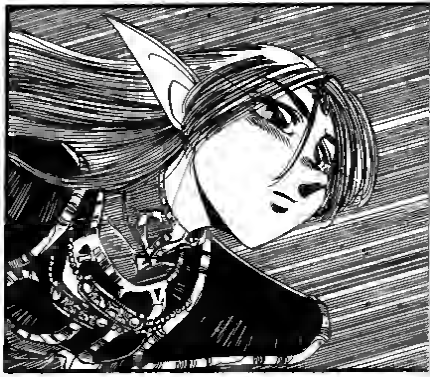
WE'VE GOT TO HURRY!


ARE WE GONNA HELP THEM?
THE KNIGHTS SHOULD BE ABLE TO WIN IF THEY'RE FIGHTING THOSE GUYS WITH THE CARRIAGE
BUT THEY ARE PROBABLY OUT-NUMBERED!
CLANK

CLANK


JUST DON'T GET IN THEIR WAY, OK?
WHOOSH

OF COURSE NOT!
TAP



HEY!! STOP TAKING OFF LIKE THAT!
CLINK CLANK
THE HOLY KNIGHTS ARE IN BATTLE! YOU THINK I SHOULD STROLL OVER THERE?!!

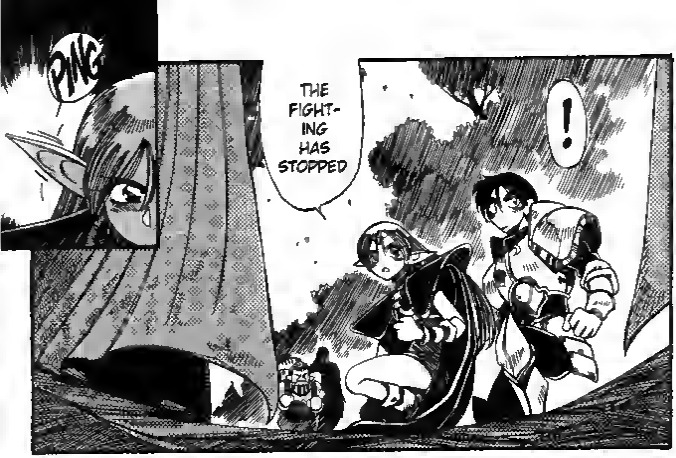
I UNDERSTAND, BUT DON'T YOU THINK WE SHOULD ASSESS THE SITUATION FIRST?

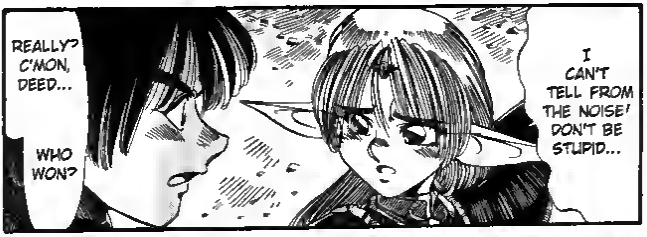
I KNOW.
BUT.. BUT DEED..

OOPS! DID I GET TOO FAR AHEAD OF THEM?
?!
AAIEEE!!

YEAH.
-UGGH- MY EARS ARE RINGING!
WHAT WAS THAT SOUND AND FLASH OF LIGHT?!
SORCERY.
IT HAD TO BE A FIREBALL CONJURED THROUGH SORCERY!
DEEDLIT, ARE YOU OK?

WHO ON EARTH COULD'VE DONE THAT? THE CARRIAGE GUARDS? THE HOLY KNIGHTS OF VALIS?
ALL I KNOW IS THAT IT WASN'T ME.
THAT KIND OF FIREBALL IS STRICTLY FORBIDDEN.
ONLY SAGES FROM THE SCHOOL OR THOSE WITH EQUIVALENT QUALIFICATIONS ARE TAUGHT THAT METHOD.
AND I'M SURE I'VE NEVER SEEN THOSE CARRIAGE GUARDS OR KNIGHTS AT THE SCHOOL BEFORE.
I'LL BET IT'S VAGNADO!
YOU SAW WOMEN IN THE CARRIAGE, RIGHT?
IS VAG-NADO A WOMAN ??
NO


PING
THE FIGHT-ING HAS STOPPED
!


REALLY? C'MON, DEED...
WHO WON?
I CAN'T TELL FROM THE NOISE! DON'T BE STUPID...

WAIT
I'LL ASK THE WIND.

!
YOU MEAN SLYPH, SPIRIT OF THE WIND?

YES

THEN LET ME USE A TELESCOPIC SPELL INSTEAD.

TELESCOPIC?

YES IT'S POSSIBLE TO ENHANCE VISION WITH SORCERY.

I'LL NEED A FEW MINUTES FOR MY EYES TO ADJUST.

IF YA'D JUST DONE THAT BEFORE, WE WOULDN'A HAD TO RUN.

AIN'T THAT RIGHT?

THE USE OF SORCERY HAS ITS LIMITS.

IT IS NOT SOME-THING TO BE USED RECK-LESSLY.

DON'T BE SO POMPOUS.

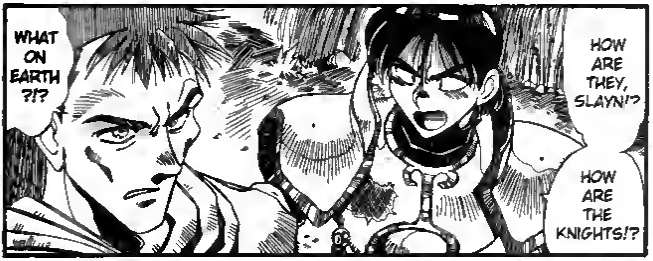
tap

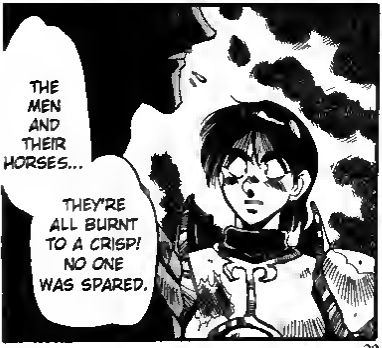
OH, MANA, SOURCE OF ALL MAGIC...

BESTOW UPON THESE EYES THE POWER TO...

...DEFY DISTANCE

!

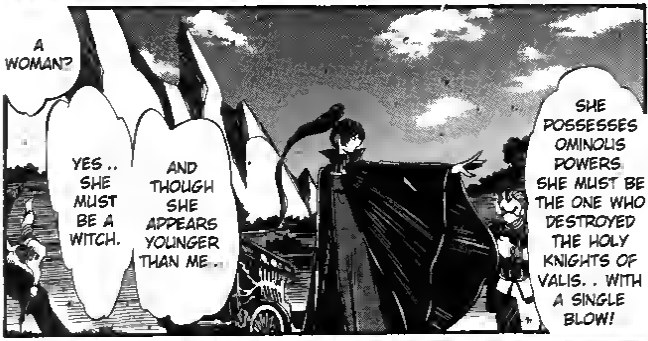

WHAT ON EARTH ?!?
HOW ARE THEY, SLAYN!?
HOW ARE THE KNIGHTS!?


THE MEN AND THEIR HORSES...
THEY'RE ALL BURNT TO A CRISP! NO ONE WAS SPARED.

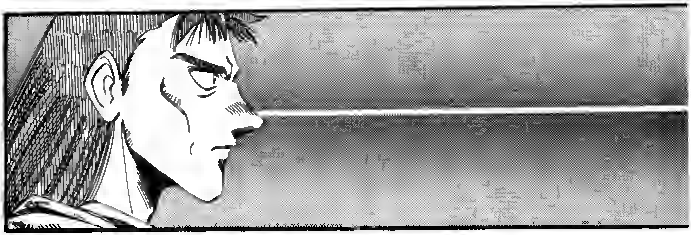
NO! THIS CAN'T BE!!

CALM DOWN, PARN.
EVEN IF WE GO THERE...

THERE ISN'T ANYONE LEFT TO HELP.
THE ONLY SURVIVORS SEEM TO BE THE CARRIAGE GUARDS AND...
A WOMAN.


A WOMAN?
YES .. SHE MUST BE A WITCH.
AND THOUGH SHE APPEARS YOUNGER THAN ME..
SHE POSSESSES OMINOUS POWERS. SHE MUST BE THE ONE WHO DESTROYED THE HOLY KNIGHTS OF VALIS. . WITH A SINGLE BLOW!

WHAT WITCH ON EARTH HAS SUCH TREMEN-DOUS POWER?
HMMM. I'VE SEEN THAT FACE...



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RECORD OF LODOSS WAR

The Grey Witch

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RECORD OF LODOSS WAR

The Grey Witch

Story by Ryo Mizuno

Ryo Mizuno is the world renowned creator of the entire **Record of the Lodoss War** universe. The story you now hold in your hands, **The Grey Witch**, is the first **Lodoss War** story Mr. Mizuno ever wrote. Looking back at all his works, he feels that **The Grey Witch** is the most primitive, from his standpoint as its writer. For this reason, Mr. Mizuno says that he often gets embarrassed after re-reading **The Grey Witch**. However, he loves Mr. Ochi's beautiful illustrations and is extremely satisfied with the way his characters were brought to life in this comic book.

Art by Yoshihiko Ochi

Mr. Ochi would like to share one of his favorite proverbs with **Lodoss War** readers: *"In looking ahead to the future, one must always reflect upon the past."*

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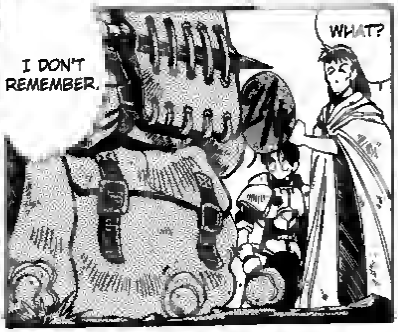
GHIM! DON'T YOU REMEMBER?
YOU WERE STARING AT IT.
I THINK HER NAME WAS KARLA.

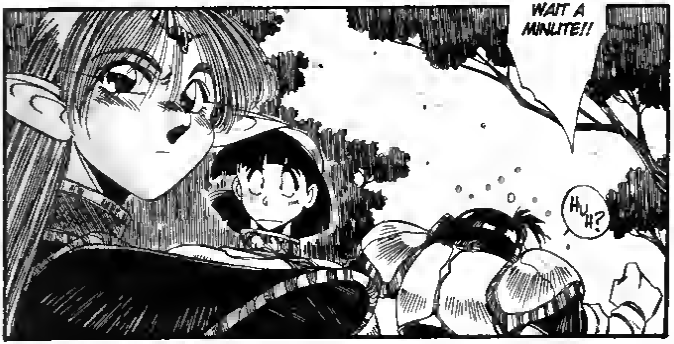

I DON'T REMEMBER.
WHAT?

IN ANY CASE, IF THAT WOMAN IS WITH THE MARMO ARMY, THAT MAKES HER OUR ENEMY, RIGHT?
SO WE BETTER HURRY IF WE'RE GONNA CAPTURE HER.

LET'S GO!! IF SHE'S ON MARMO'S SIDE...
...SHE MUST'VE PULLED SOME UNDER-HANDED TRICK IN VALIS.

IF THERE WERE TWO WOMEN IN THE CARRIAGE AND ONE OF THEM IS A WITCH...
WHO'S THE OTHER ONE?
I WONDER IF SHE HAS SOME CONNECTION TO VALIS.

IN ANY CASE, THE HOLY KNIGHTS WERE AFTER THEM...
SO IT MUST BE IMPORT-ANT!!
WE BETTER HURRY!!
HUH?


WAIT A MINUTE!!
HUH?

DO YOU THINK WE CAN FIGHT THEM?

PARN, YOU SAW THAT BALL OF LIGHT.

FIVE HOLY KNIGHTS WERE WIPED OUT IN ONE BLOW!!

WE AREN'T CAPABLE OF COMPETING WITH THAT.

BUT... BUT...

YOU MAY BE PREPARED TO DIE IN BATTLE...

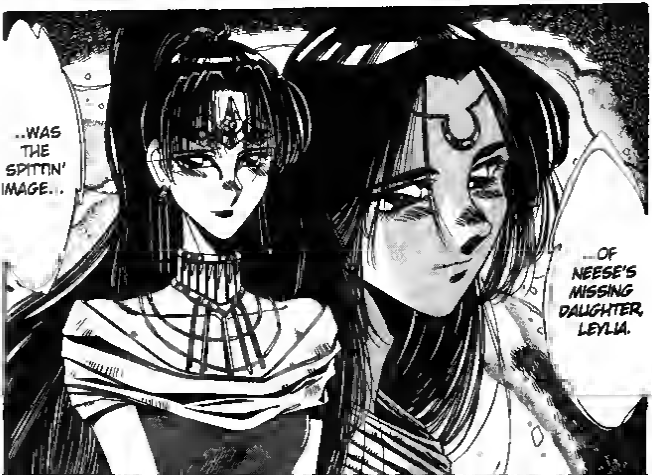
BUT TO THROW YOUR LIFE AWAY NEEDLESSLY...

...IS NOT COURAGE!!

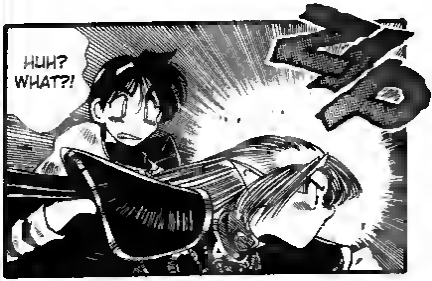
YOU NEED TO BE PATIENT!
WE HAVE TO WAIT FOR THE RIGHT OPPORTUNITY.
THAT MAKES SENSE.
AND WHILE WE'RE SITTIN' AROUND...
TAK!
...WE COULD MISS OUR OPPORTUNITY...
...AND THEY'LL GET AWAY SCOT-FREE.
GHUM?!
I'LL HANDLE THIS MYSELF
SLAYN, YOU CAN JOIN UP WITH US LATER.

GHIM!!

SORRY, SLAYN.
I'VE GOT TO SEE HER WITH MY OWN EYES!!
THE WOMAN IN THAT PORTRAIT...


...WAS THE SPITTIN' IMAGE...
...OF NEESE'S MISSING DAUGHTER, LEYLIA.

WHAT ON EARTH IS HE THINKING?
I DON'T WANT TO SEE THAT DWARF BURNT TO A CRISP AS WELL.
WHAT A FOOL!!


HUH? WHAT?!

CLANK
WHAT ARE YOU DOING? STAYING OR GOING?

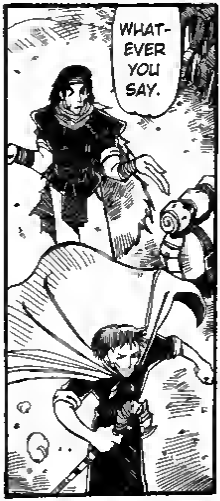
I CAN'T LET HIM GO ALONE, CAN I!?

OF COURSE NOT!
CLANK CLANK

LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE PISSED AT YA, SORCERER...
BUT YOU'RE RIGHT.
IF YA THINK IT'S DANGER-OUS...
WE GOTTA KEEP THE HELL OUTTA THERE.
WE CAN TAKE OUR TIME FOLLOWIN' 'EM.
NO, WE CAN'T !!
EH?
IT WAS THE SAME SITUATION.
AN OLD FRIEND OF MINE WAS KILLED THIS WAY

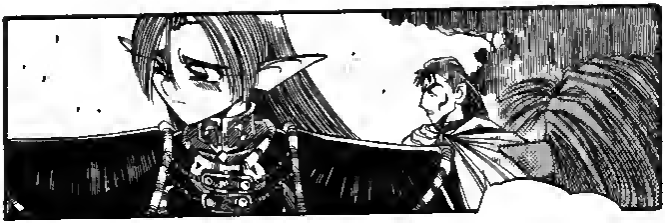
I TRIED TO HOLD HIM BACK ...
BUT HE WENT ANY-WAY.
IF I HAD FOLLOW-ED HIM ...
EVERY-THING COULD HAVE BEEN DIFFERENT

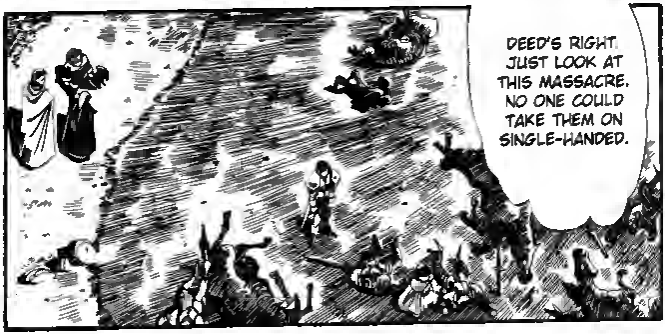
.....
SHOOSH!
I AM NOT GOING TO MAKE THE SAME MISTAKE...


WHAT-EVER YOU SAY.

THEY'RE NUTS! THEY'RE ALL SLAPHAPPY!!
EVERY LAST ONE OF 'EM!
CLUNK

THEY'RE ON HORSES. UNLESS THEY STOP FOR TEA OR SOMETHING, YOU'LL NEVER CATCH THEM!!
HMPH! I DON'T CARE WHAT ANYBODY SAYS. I'M GONNA CATCH THEM!
GO RIGHT AHEAD! GO FIGHT THEM BY YOURSELF...
YOU'RE PLANNING TO CHASE THEM ON THOSE SHORT LEGS!!?
EXCUSE ME?!
..IF YOU WANT TO END UP LIKE THE VALISIAN KNIGHTS.




DEED'S RIGHT. JUST LOOK AT THIS MASSACRE. NO ONE COULD TAKE THEM ON SINGLE-HANDED.

YOU OF ALL PEOPLE SHOULD KNOW THAT.

BUT I CAN'T JUST LET THEM GET AWAY!!
NOW THAT THEY'VE SHAKEN THEIR PURSUERS, THEY'LL PROBABLY LET DOWN THEIR GUARD.
IT'S ALMOST DARK

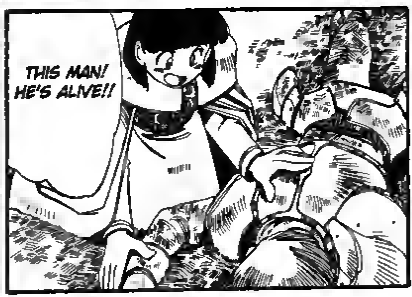
THEY SHOULD BE CAMPING OUT SOMEWHERE.
THERE'S NO RUSH.
CLANK
FINE.
THAT WITCH IS NOT THE ONLY ONE CAPABLE OF INVOKING FIRE.
!
SLAYN...
IT LOOKS LIKE IT IS TIME FOR ME TO MAKE UP MY MIND.

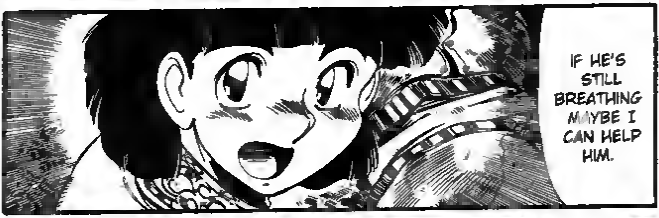
WE CAN'T LEAVE THINGS LIKE THIS.

I KNOW.

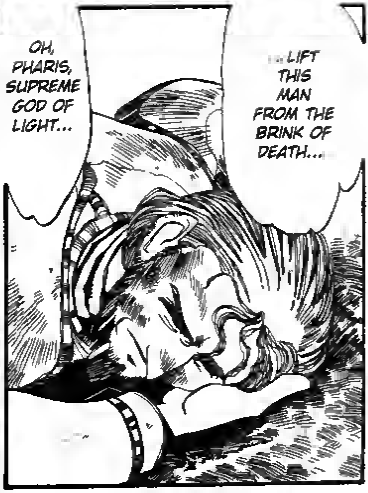
THEY MUST BE JUSTLY PUNISHED...
...IN THE NAME OF PHARIS.

CWitch!

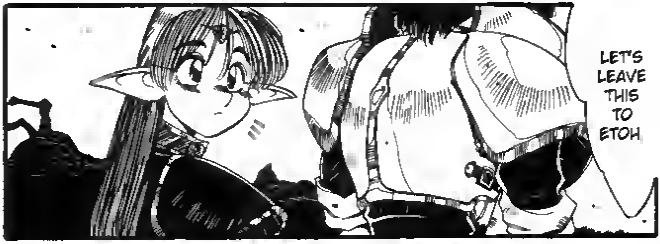

THIS MAN! HE'S ALIVE!!


IF HE'S STILL BREATHING MAYBE I CAN HELP HIM.

YOU THINK, ETOH!?
I'M NOT WEARING THESE PHARIS VESTMENTS FOR NOTHING.


OH, PHARIS, SUPREME GOD OF LIGHT...
...LIFT THIS MAN FROM THE BRINK OF DEATH...

BESTOW UPON HIM THE FLAME OF LIFE...
AND GRANT HIM THE STRENGTH TO SURVIVE.


LET'S LEAVE THIS TO ETOH.

WE'D BETTER START BURYING THE CORPSES.

YEAH

SOME OF THE DEAD WERE CARRIAGE GUARDS.
THAT WITCH INCINER-ATED HER OWN MEN...
...IN THE MIDDLE OF AN ATTACK.
MAYBE NOT.
COULDA BEEN AFTER THEY BIT THE DUST.
I DON'T CARE IF THEY WERE ALREADY DEAD...

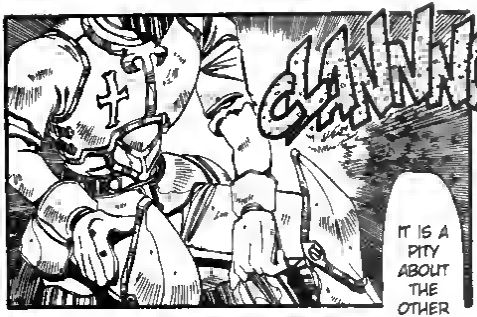
I WON'T LET HER GET AWAY WITH THIS!!
WHY IS HE ANGRY...
...ABOUT HER MEN?
THEY'RE MEN WHO MIGHT'VE TURNED OUT TO BE OUR ENEMIES.
SO WHAT DO WE DO NOW?
WE CON-TINUE, OF COURSE!
ARE YOU SURE WE CAN WIN?

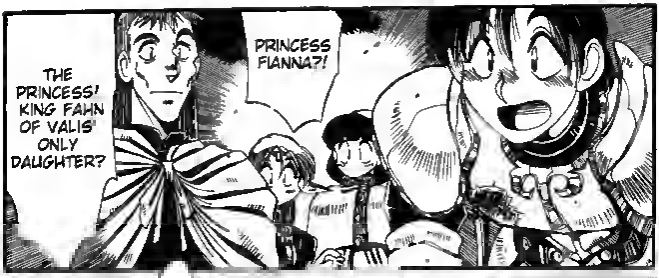
NO!
AND YOU STILL WANT TO GO!?
YES!
HE'S WILLING TO PUT HIS LIFE ON THE LINE...
...FOR SOME-THING THAT ISN'T EVEN HIS
ARE YA OUTTA YER MIND?
EVEN IF WE KILL 'EM ..

...THERE AIN'T NO ONE TO GIVE US A REWARD.
HE'S SO MATERIALISTIC.
THE REWARD COMES FROM YOUR HEART.
ETOH!!
THERE SHOULD BE A REWARD FROM THE KING OF VALIS.
I NEVER IMAGINED YOU WOULD SAVE MY LIFE
I AM DEEPLY GRATEFUL.

I SEE

I WAS THE ONLY ONE SAVED.



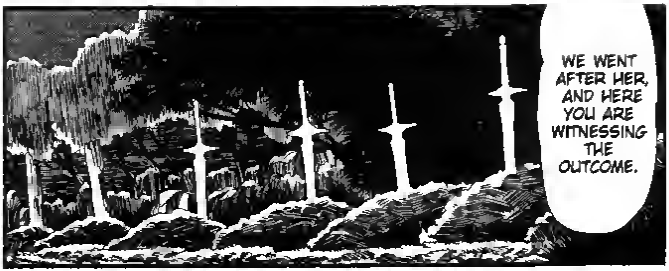

THE PRINCESS! KING FAHN OF VALIS' ONLY DAUGHTER?
PRINCESS FIANNA?!

THAT'S RIGHT.
THE PRINCESS HEART BROKE WHEN THE WAR BROKE OUT.

SHE INSISTED ON GOING TO THE FRONT TO CHEER UP THE SOLDIERS.
BUT THAT'S TOO DANGEROUS

I KNOW. THAT'S WHY WE TRIED TO STOP HER
BUT OUR ATTEMPTS TO RESTRAIN HER FAILED.

BELIEVE IT OR NOT, THE PRINCESS MANAGED TO SNEAK OUT OF THE CASTLE..
AND SHE WAS SEDUCED INTO FOLLOWING THAT WITCH.


WE WENT AFTER HER, AND HERE YOU ARE WITNESSING THE OUTCOME.

WHAT THE HELL'S SHE PEDDLIN' ANYWAY?

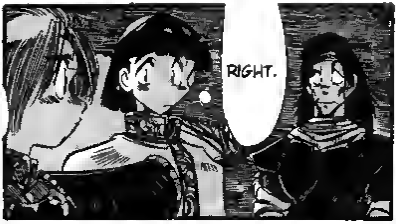
WHAT DOES MARMO SELL?

FREEZE-DRIED BEASTS?

WHAT?

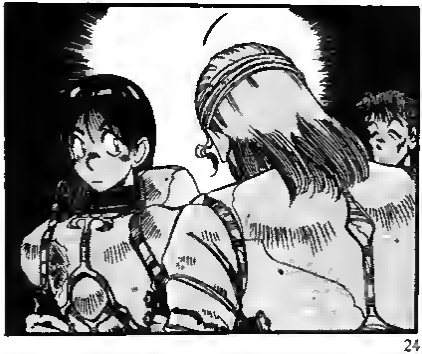
WE HAVE NO CONCLUSIVE EVIDENCE ...
BUT THE WITCH DOES SEEM TO HAVE SOME CONNECTION TO MARMO.
CLANG!
THERE'S NO TIME TO LOSE!
WE MUST RESCUE THE PRINCESS BEFORE THEY REACH KANON.
ARE YOU SURE WE'LL GET A REWARD?
I'M SURE.

BUT ONLY IF WE BRING HER BACK SAFELY.


RIGHT.

WE WILL BRING HER BACK SAFELY!

WE WILL!

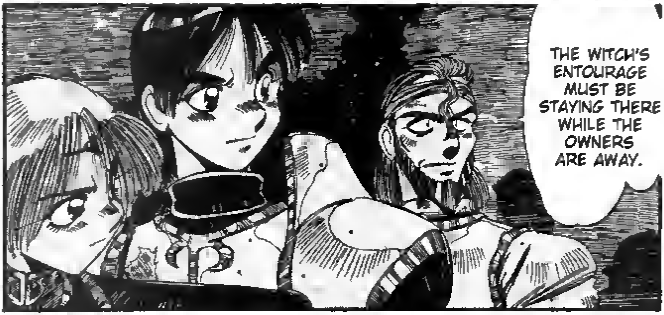


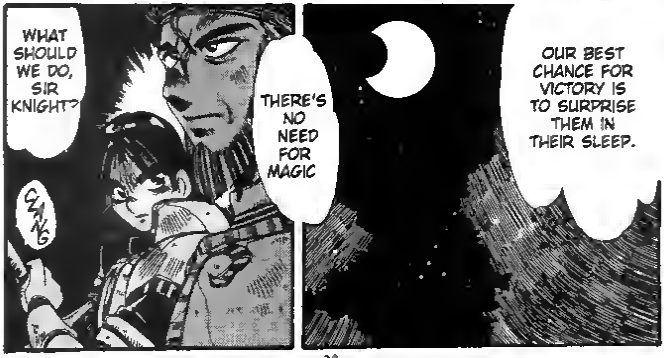
I THANK YOU.

WHAT? AM I GOIN' LOONY, TOO!? NOW I'M BELIEVIN' THIS STUFF!
THIS WILL HELP US SEE WHERE WE'RE GOING...
LUMINOUS CREATURES, DWELLERS IN LIGHT...
GATHER BEFORE US, LEND US YOUR SIGHT....

WHEN ARE WE GOING TO CATCH UP TO THEM?
WE'VE BEEN.
WAIT!
THANK YOU WILL-O-WISPS...
YOU CAN GO NOW.
WHAT'S WRONG, DEED?
THERE'S LIGHT COMING FROM THAT HOUSE
HUH?

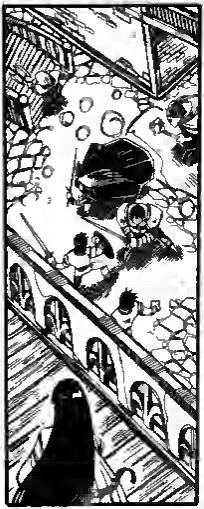
AND THERE'S A CARRIAGE, WITHOUT ANY HORSES.
YOU'VE GOT GREAT EYESIGHT.
ELVES CAN SEE IN THE DARK.
ALL THE PEOPLE FROM THIS AREA LEFT THEIR HOMES TO ESCAPE THE WAR

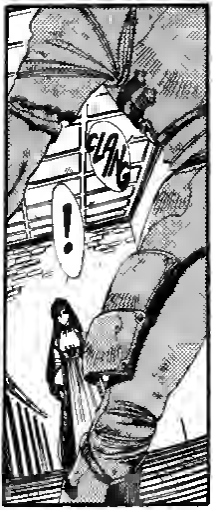

THE WITCH'S ENTOURAGE MUST BE STAYING THERE WHILE THE OWNERS ARE AWAY.


WHAT SHOULD WE DO, SIR KNIGHT?
CLANG
THERE'S NO NEED FOR MAGIC
OUR BEST CHANCE FOR VICTORY IS TO SURPRISE THEM IN THEIR SLEEP.

NEIGH! NEIGH!
BAM!
CRASH!
CLANG CLANG
INVADERS!? VALISIAN SOLDIERS AGAIN?!!
DEED AND I WILL KEEP A LOOK-OUT!!
YOU AND GHIM LOOK AROUND UP-STAIRS!
GOT IT!!
RAH!

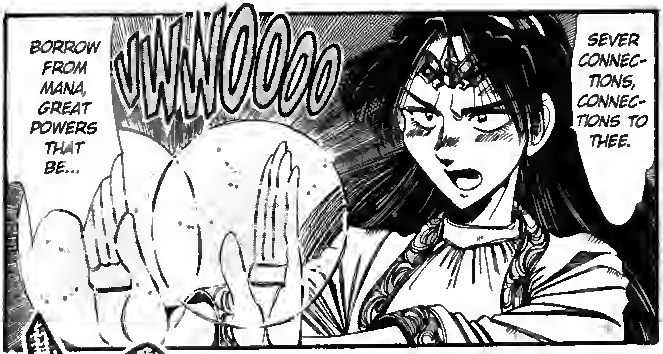
BAM



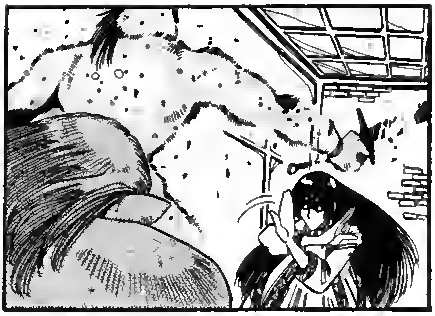

CLANG
!

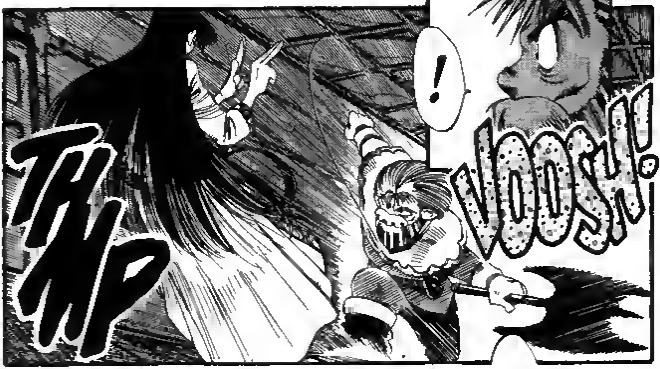
ONE OF THOSE VALISIAN SOLDIERS SURVIVED!

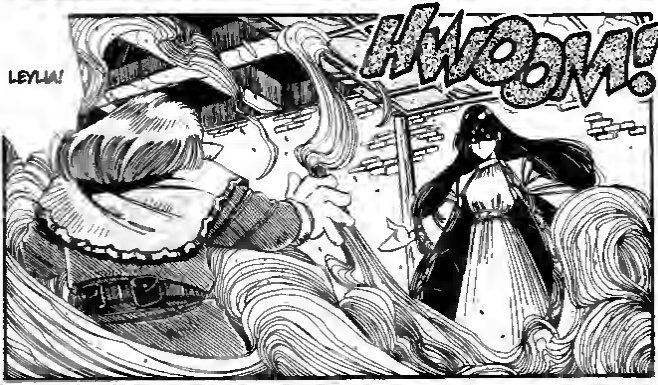
SUBSTANCE, SUBSTANCE, CREATOR OF ALL...
WOOSH
THINE ORIGINAL FORM, RECALL, RECALL!


BORROW FROM MANA, GREAT POWERS THAT BE...
WWOOOO
SEVER CONNECTIONS, CONNECTIONS TO THEE.

!







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RECORD OF LODOSS WAR

The Grey Witch

Story by Ryo Mizuno

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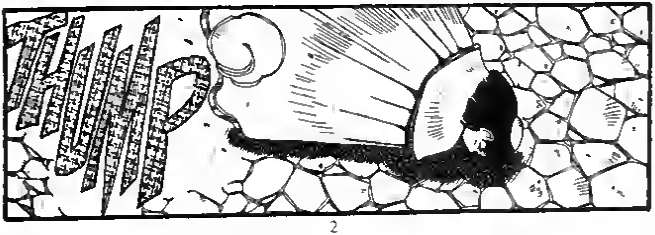
GOOD HEAVENS! A SLUMBER CLOUD!!
PHHOOOOO
OH, NO!
TH-THUD

OH, PHARIS, GOD OF LIGHT...!

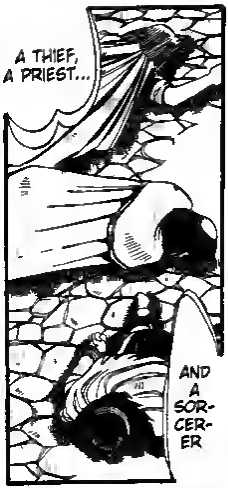
KEEP ME FROM THIS...

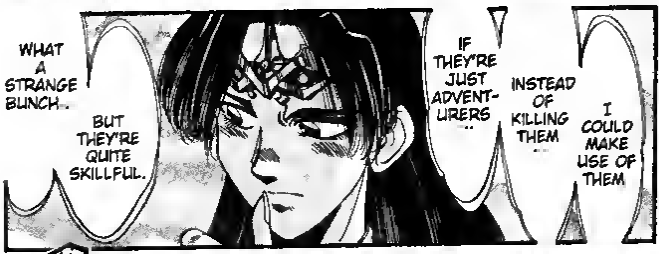
SLEEPER'S PLIGHT!!


THUMP

A DWARF.

A SOLDIER, AN ELF...
UNO


A THIEF, A PRIEST...
AND A SOR-CER-ER


WHAT A STRANGE BUNCH..
BUT THEY'RE QUITE SKILLFUL.
IF THEY'RE JUST ADVENT-URERS ..
INSTEAD OF KILLING THEM ...
I COULD MAKE USE OF THEM

CLANG
CLANG CLANG

ICK.
IF YOU WERE REAL SOLDIERS..
YOU'D BE AROUND WHEN YOU'RE NEEDED.
IF I HAD WOKEN UP A LITTLE LATER...
THIS COULD HAVE BEEN YOU.
S... S... SORRY...
WHAT SHOULD WE DO WITH 'EM?
TAKE THEIR WEAPONS!
THEN LOCK THEM IN AN EMPTY ROOM UP-STAIRS

I USED A SLUMBER SPELL ON THEM.

IT WON'T LAST FOR-EVER.

YOU'RE GONNA KEEP 'EM ALIVE?

I'LL CAST A SPELL ON THE DOOR TO MAKE IT STRONGER THAN STEEL.

WHEN THEY WAKE UP, THEY'LL BE HELPLESS.

GOTCHA...

I SHOULDN'T HAVE TO SAY THIS...

BUT DON'T PUT THEM IN THE ROOM NEXT TO FIANNA...

...AND PUT THEIR WEAPONS IN A SEPARATE ROOM

IS THAT CLEAR?!

GOT IT.

THESE MEN ARE USE-LESS

IT WILL BE DIFFICULT CROSSING THE BORDER INTO VALIS WITH THEM.

I HEARD THE ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT ON THE KING OF ALLANIA FAILED.

BUT EVEN AFTER THE FALL OF THEIR ALLY, KANON...

ALLANIAN TROOPS HAVE NOT BEEN DISPATCHED.

SO THEY SHOULDN'T INTERFERE WITH MARMO'S ADVANCE.

THE ONLY PROBLEM IS THE HOLY KNIGHTS OF VALIS.

BUT AS LONG AS PRINCESS FIANNA IS IN MY CUSTODY

THE HOLY KNIGHTS CAN'T EXERT THEIR TRUE POWERS.

WE HAVE AN ADVANT-AGE IN THE WAR WITH VALIS..

BUT WE CAN ONLY MAINTAIN THE ADVANTAGE IF I CAN GET THE PRINCESS OUT.
I'LL HAVE TO BRING GUARDS BACK FROM KANON.
IF THESE GUYS ARE WISE ENOUGH TO FIGURE OUT WHY I'M FIGHTING...
THEY COULD BE EXCELLENT ALLIES.
I THINK I'M EXPECTING TOO MUCH RIGHT NOW.

Shh!

HISSSS!
CREAK
MUP
KARLA!?
ARE YOU GOING SOME-WHERE?
CREAK

I'LL BE BACK TO GET THE GIRL SO I CAN TAKE HER TO KANON.
OH... I SEE, BUT...
YES. I'M GOING BACK TO KANON TO GET SOME GUARDS.
STAND BACK. I'M GOING TO CLOSE THE DOOR.
YES.
ARE THEY ALL IN THERE?
TO OPEN THIS DOOR, AS HARDENED AS LEAD, THE MAGIC PASSWORD MUST BE SECRETLY SAID.
ESSENCE OF METAL, ESSENCE OF STONE, THIS DOOR SHALL NOT OPEN, NO MATTER WHAT POWER BE THROWN

BAM
SO... WHAT SHOULD WE DO NOW?
KEEP AN EYE ON THE GIRL. MAKE SURE SHE'S ALRIGHT. AND IF ANY VALISIAN SOLDIERS SHOW UP, GET OUT RIGHT AWAY.
ARE YOU SURE?
YES, I'M SURE. YOU TWO DON'T STAND A CHANCE AGAINST THEM.
MARK MY WORDS, IF YOU LEAVE HERE FOR ANY OTHER REASON, OR IF ANYTHING HAPPENS TO THE GIRL...
YOU GET THE MESSAGE.
Y... Y... YES!

THIS GUARD WILL LOOK OUT FOR INVADERS.
ZEW
CRAK KRAK
CREAK CREAK
RELAX. HE'S NOT GOING TO HURT YOU.

WH... WHAT IS IT?

IT'S A DRAGON FANG WARRIOR. HE CAN ONLY FOLLOW SIMPLE ORDERS, BUT HE'S GOOD WITH A SWORD.

KRAK

KRAK

HE KNOWS...

NO FEAR!

I'M GOING TO SHOW YOU HOW TO OPEN THE DOOR, JUST IN CASE.

THE PASS-WORD IS "RASTA".

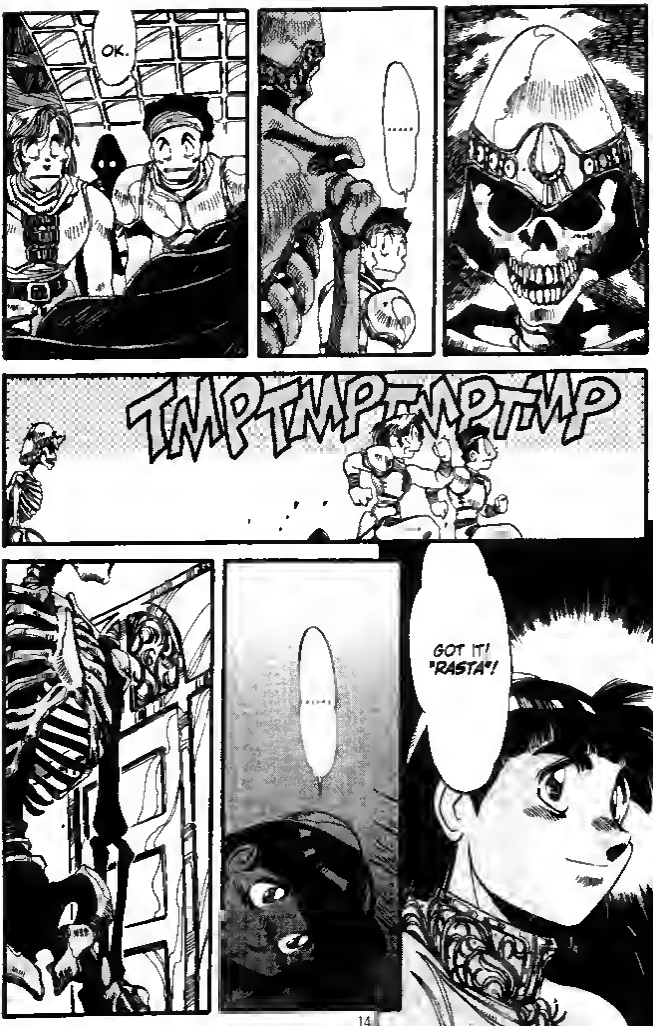
IF YOU RECITE THIS WORD, THE DOOR WILL OPEN.

HAVE YOU GOT THAT?

YES, MA'AM.

ALL RIGHT. I'M LEAV-ING.

TAKE GOOD CARE OF THINGS.

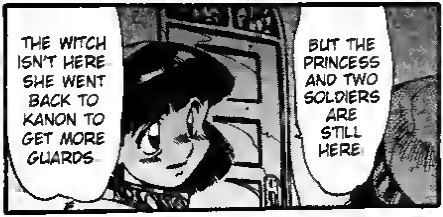

OK.
.....
TMP TMP TMP TMP
.....
GOT IT! "RASTA"!

INTO WIND TRANS-FORM THIS BODY. CONVERT THESE HANDS...
SEND THEM SOARING, ACROSS VAST LANDS.
ZOW!!

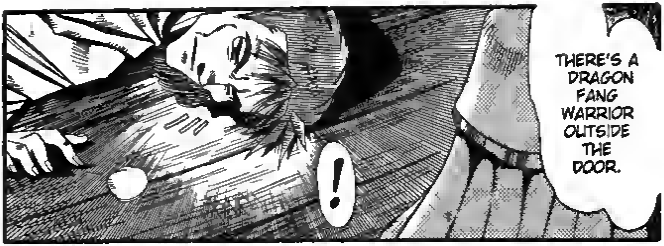
WHOOSH!
BUFF!

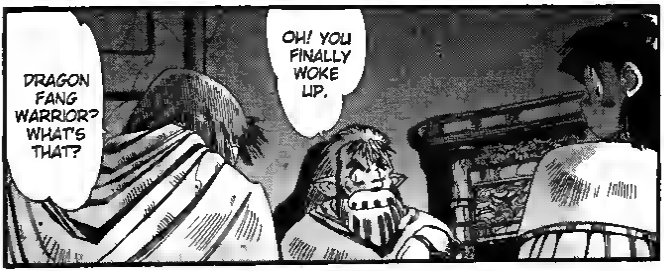
GOOD MORNIN', SLEEPY-HEAD.
GRRR

SHHH! QUIET!
EH? UHH!
WHERE'S THE WITCH?


BUT THE PRINCESS AND TWO SOLDIERS ARE STILL HERE.
THE WITCH ISN'T HERE SHE WENT BACK TO KANON TO GET MORE GUARDS

THIS IS THE PERFECT TIME TO ESCAPE. THE ONLY PROBLEM IS...
DAMN!!

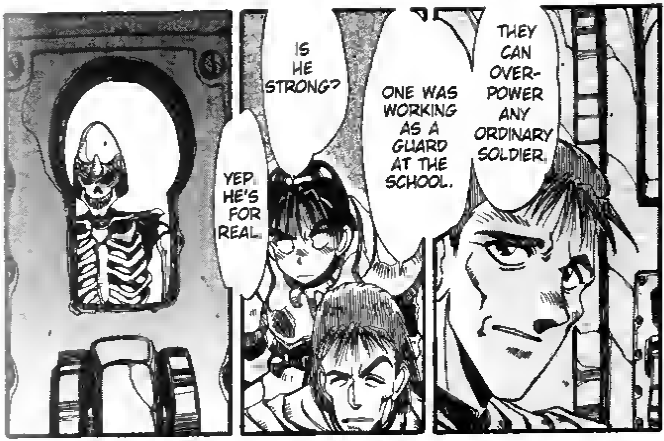

!
THERE'S A DRAGON FANG WARRIOR OUTSIDE THE DOOR.

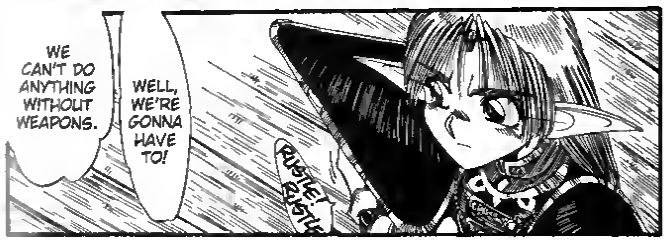

DRAGON FANG WARRIOR? WHAT'S THAT?
OH! YOU FINALLY WOKE UP.

ONLY WOOD IS STILL SLEEPING.

NOT!

IF YOU WERE AWAKE, WHY DIDN'T YOU SAY SOME-THING.


YEP. HE'S FOR REAL.
IS HE STRONG?
ONE WAS WORKING AS A GUARD AT THE SCHOOL.
THEY CAN OVER-POWER ANY ORDINARY SOLDIER.


WE CAN'T DO ANYTHING WITHOUT WEAPONS.
WELL, WE'RE GONNA HAVE TO!
RUSTLE RUSTLE

OH!
GULP

YOU'RE PRETTY SMART, KID.
THE GUARD OVER-LOOKED THIS.

THAT DRAGON FANG IS A SKELETON, SO THIS MIGHT NOT WORK TOO WELL.
WHAT ABOUT THIS?
THOK
LEAVE DRAGON FANG TO GHIM AND ME.
IT'S BETTER THAN NOTHING.
THEY MIGHT NOT HELP, BUT WE CAN TRY TO USE THEM LIKE CLUBS.
YANK! YANK!

RASTA
RUN

SWOP
FLAP!
!
SWAP

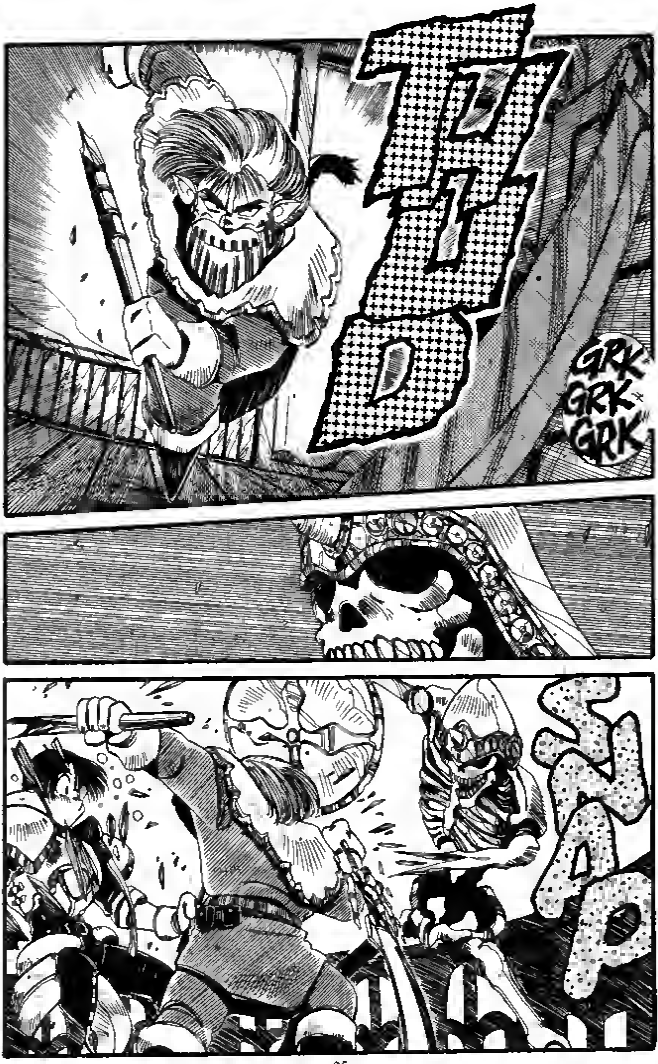
WHAT'RE YOU DOING, GHIM!!?
WHY DON'T YOU HELP PARN?!
THAP!
WHOK
PON
WHAP

JUST SHUT UP AND WATCH. DWARVES HAVE THEIR OWN WAY OF FIGHTING!!
JUST HITTING HIM LIKE THAT ISN'T GOING TO KNOCK HIM OUT, BUT THERE IS A WAY!

PARN, HANG IN THERE!!

WE'LL GET OUR CHANCE.

DAMN!!
PAAARN!!
!


GRK
GRK
GRK

WHAAK
YANK
BANG!

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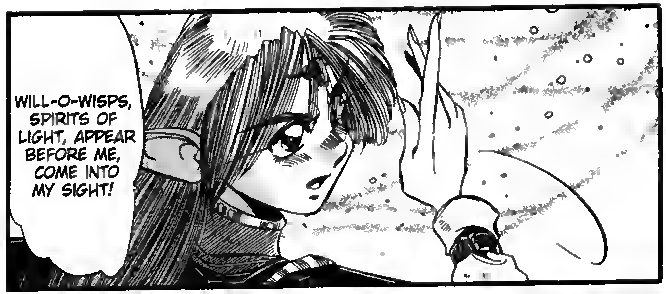
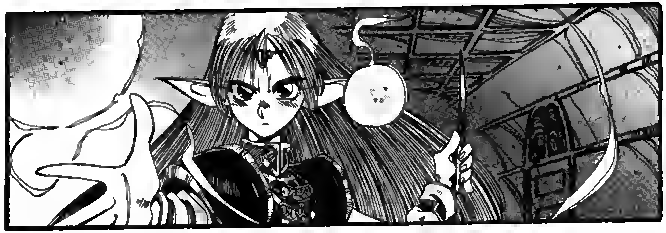
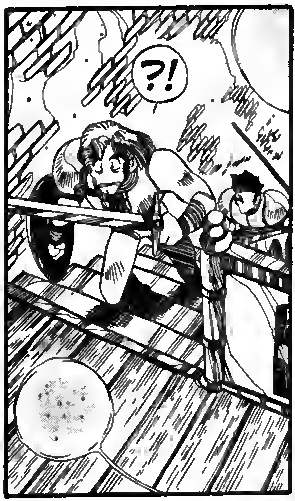
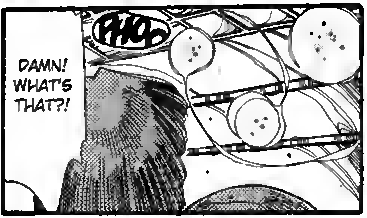

WILL-O-WISPS, SPIRITS OF LIGHT, APPEAR BEFORE ME, COME INTO MY SIGHT!

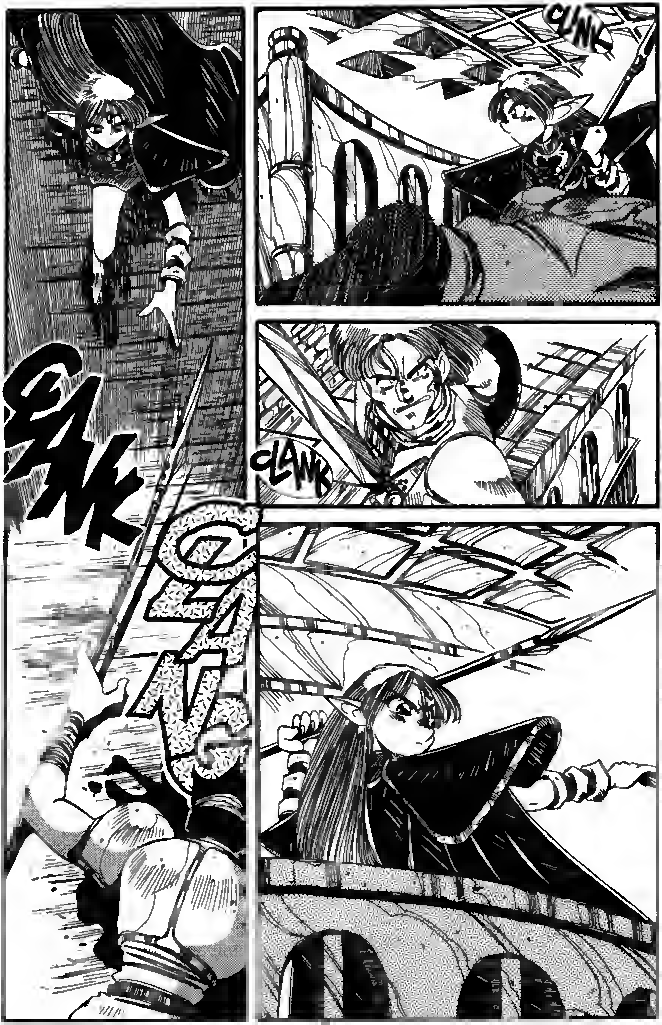



?!


PHOO
DAMN! WHAT'S THAT?!

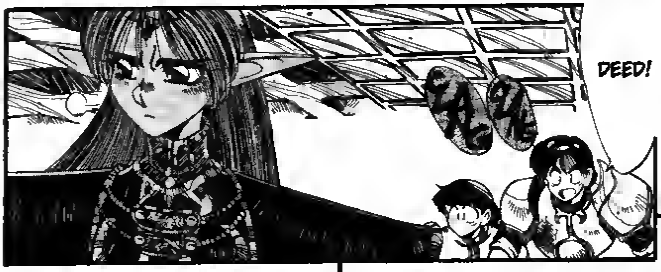
PHOO

AAUGH!!
POP!
BOOOH
SHUU
!


CLINK
CLANK
CLANK
CLANK

THUD

CLANG

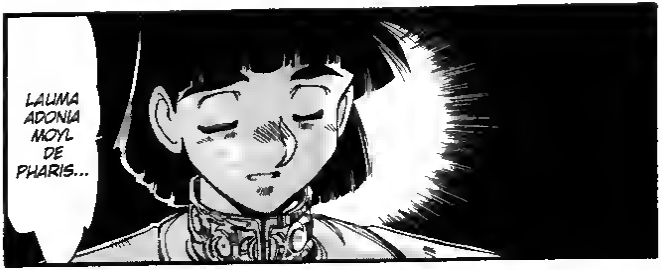

DEED!

HERE'S YOUR WEAPON.
CLANG
THANKS! I'M FINISHED.

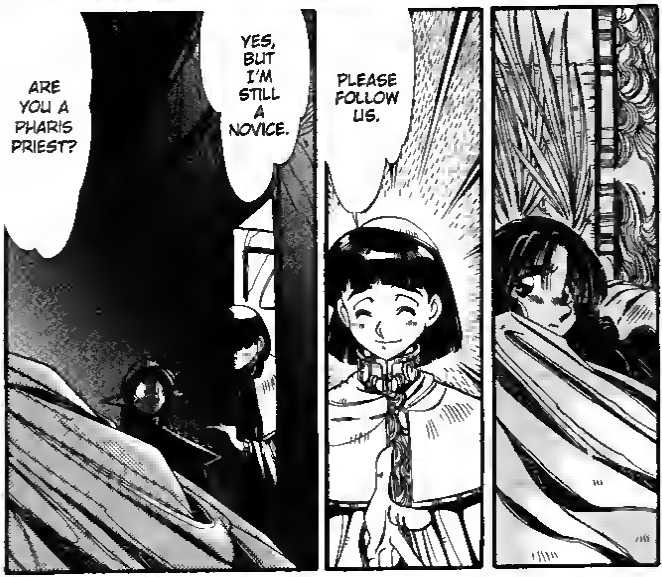
LET'S GO RESCUE THE PRINCESS.

RATTLE!
IS IT LOCKED, WOOD?
YEP.
IT'S NOT BOOBY-TRAPPED.
RATTLE! RATTLE!
RATTLE!
CREEEEAK
PARN, WAIT!
THIS IS THE PRIN-CESS' BED-ROOM
YOU CAN'T JUST BURST IN!
OH... UHH.. RIGHT.

DON'T WORRY. EVERY-THING'S GOING TO BE FINE.
I'M DEEDLIT THE ELF.
JUST RELAX AND FOLLOW ME.
WE'RE HERE TO RESCUE YOU.
!


LAUMA ADONIA MOYL DE PHARIS...

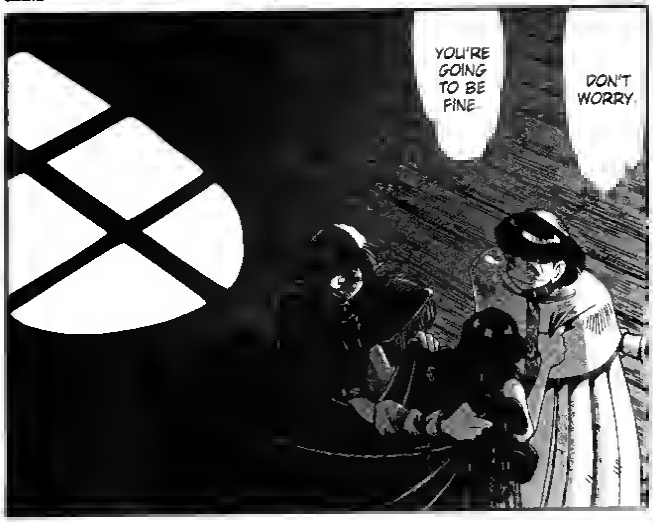
!
MOY ROUS LAAM.


ARE YOU A PHARIS PRIEST?
YES, BUT I'M STILL A NOVICE.
PLEASE FOLLOW US.

HUH?
BLINK
BLINK

UH?

SHOOP


YOU'RE GOING TO BE FINE.
DON'T WORRY.

WE HEARD THE WHOLE STORY FROM A HOLY KNIGHT.
ARE YOU IN-JURED?
THE HOLY KNIGHTS ARE ALIVE?!
UHMM...
THEY AREN'T HERE.
THEY HEADED FOR THE KANON BORDER TO FIND YOU
WE WERE TOLD ONCE WE RESCUE YOU...
TO HEAD FOR ROID, THE CAPITAL OF VALIS, IMMEDI-ATELY.

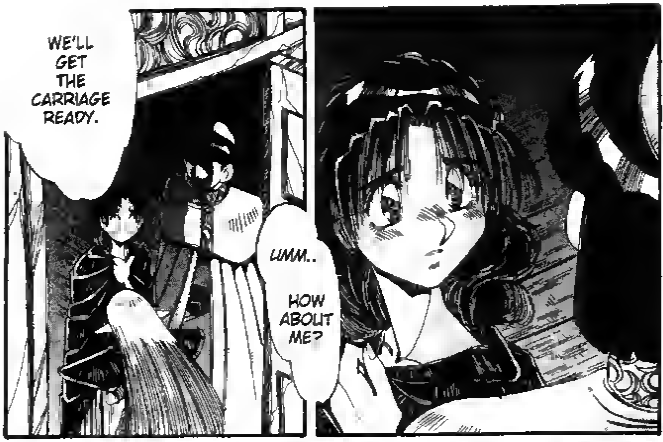
PLEASE GET YOUR THINGS TOGETHER
WE DON'T KNOW WHEN THAT WITCH IS COMING BACK

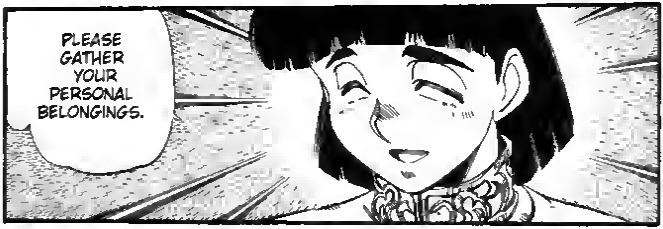
YES, THAT'S A GOOD IDEA.

THIS IS GETTIN' RIDICU-LOUS.
WE GOTTA GO OUT THERE AT NIGHT AGAIN!
SCRATCH SCRATCH

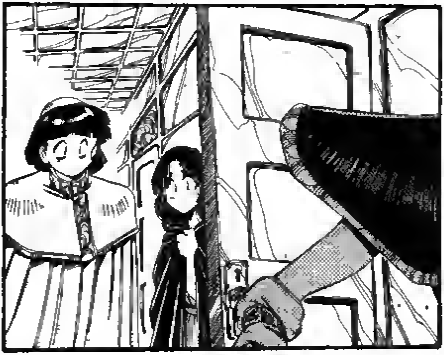
IF YOU DON'T LIKE IT, SPEND THE NIGHT HERE...
THEN THE WITCH CAN DEVOUR YOU!
NAH. I GOT PLENTY OF SLEEP.

I WONDER WHY THE WITCH DIDN'T KILL US?
YOU NEVER KNOW WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN, SO I'D BETTER STAY ALERT.
OR...
COULD IT BE THAT... THE WITCH IS...
WHAT'S WRONG, GHIM?
HUH?
NOTHING.
NOTHING AT ALL.
NOTHING AT ALL.


WE'LL GET THE CARRIAGE READY.
UMM..
HOW ABOUT ME?

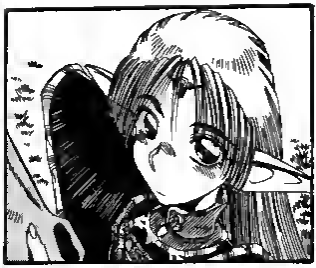

PLEASE GATHER YOUR PERSONAL BELONGINGS.

PARDON ME.



THEY'RE THE ONLY ONES I CAN DEPEND ON NOW.
AH!!
BLISH!

GOOD JOB, DEED.



THERE'LL BE PLENTY OF TIME TO TELL HER THE TRUTH...

ABOUT HER HOLY KNIGHTS BEING DEAD... AFTER WE DEAL WITH THIS WITCH.
BUT IS IT OK TO TELL A LIE?

ON TOP OF BEING CAPTURED BY THE WITCH...
SHE WAS RESCUED BY A BUNCH OF STRANGERS.
THERE'S NO NEED TO UPSET HER ANY FURTHER

CAN I HELP WITH SOME-THING?

YES, PLEASE

GO TAKE A NAP IN THE CARRIAGE.

HUH?

BUT...

YOU WALKED ALL DAY LONG AND USED A LOT OF SACRED SORCERY.

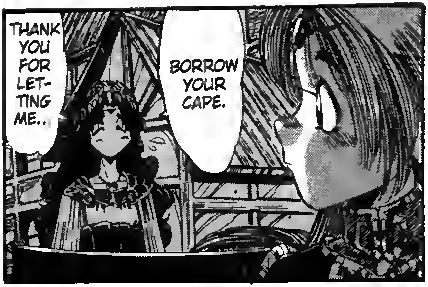
YOU MUST BE EXHAUSTED. THAT'S WHY YOU ALMOST SLIPPED UP JUST BEFORE. YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'RE ON YOUR DEATHBED.

NOW GO REST.

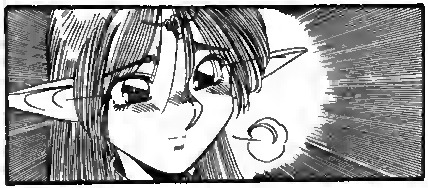
I WILL.

GOOD

EX-CUSE ME...


THANK YOU FOR LET-TING ME...
BORROW YOUR CAPE.

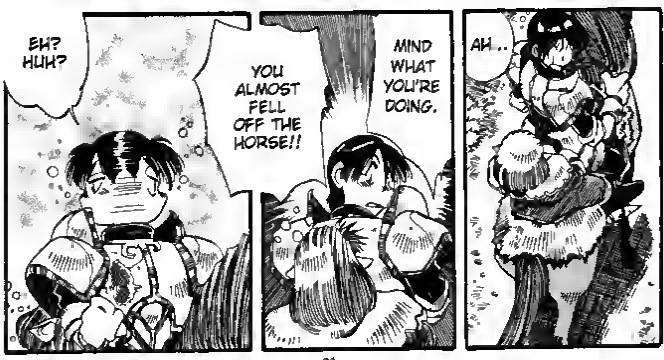
YES.
YOU'RE WELCOME. ARE YOU READY TO GO?



ITOH, THE PHARIS PRIEST...
IS SLEEPING IN THE CARRIAGE.
PLEASE GET IN, PRINCESS.

OK.

YO, PARN!
PAAAARN!!
Hop


EH? HUH?
YOU ALMOST FELL OFF THE HORSE!!
MIND WHAT YOU'RE DOING.
AH...

S.. SORRY, GHIM.

JUST REMEMBER YOU'RE RIDING WITH SOMEONE HERE!

PARN, ARE WE GOING TO TAKE A BREAK ALONG THE WAY?

WE'RE TIRED. THE HORSES ARE TIRED.

AND IT'S HOT AT MIDDAY.

I KNOW WE'RE TRYING TO GET TO A TOWN AS QUICKLY AS WE CAN ...

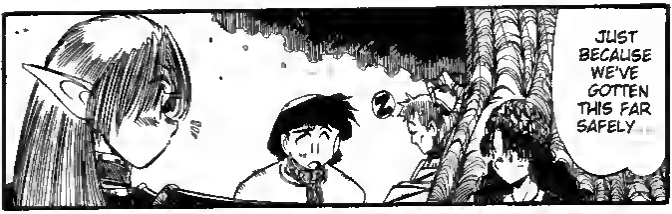
BUT IT'S NOT PHYSICALLY POSSIBLE.

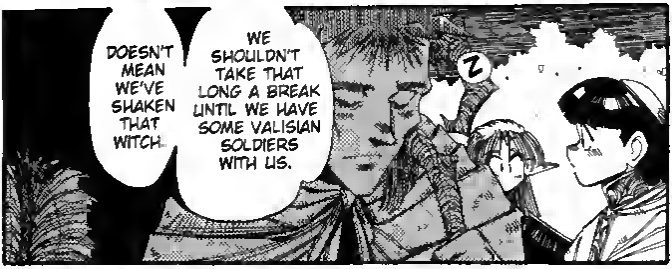
I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT.

WE SHOULD STOP AND REST IN THE SHADE AT HIGH NOON AND HEAD BACK OUT IN THE LATE AFTERNOON.

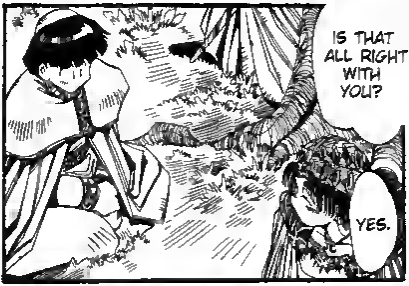
WE DON'T HAVE THAT MUCH TIME TO SPARE.

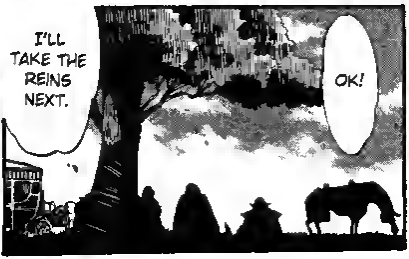
ZZZZZ
ZZZZ
CLINK!


JUST BECAUSE WE'VE GOTTEN THIS FAR SAFELY...


WE SHOULDN'T TAKE THAT LONG A BREAK UNTIL WE HAVE SOME VALISIAN SOLDIERS WITH US.
DOESN'T MEAN WE'VE SHAKEN THAT WITCH...

BOTH OF THE SLEEPING MEN COULD REST IN THE CARRIAGE.


IS THAT ALL RIGHT WITH YOU?
YES.


I'LL TAKE THE REINS NEXT.
OK!

I HATE TIGHT SQUEEZES.

I'LL SIT NEXT TO ETOH.

I'LL RIDE THE HORSE. CAN YOU SIT NEXT TO WOOD, GHIM?

EHH? THREE PEOPLE WON'T FIT ON THE COACHMAN'S SEAT

THEN YOU CAN RIDE BEHIND ME.

BUT IF YOU TOUCH ME...

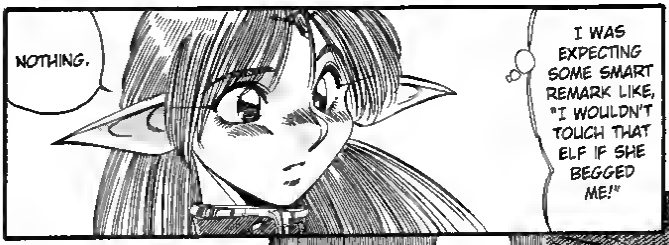
I'LL THROW YOU RIGHT OFF.

I GOT A LITTLE TOO COMFORT-ABLE RIDING BEHIND PARN, BUT...

YOU NEVER KNOW WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN, SO I'D BETTER STAY ALERT

WHAT?

WHAT'S WRONG?


NOTHING.
I WAS EXPECTING SOME SMART REMARK LIKE, "I WOULDN'T TOUCH THAT ELF IF SHE BEGGED ME!"

LET'S MOVE PARN AND SLAYN INTO THE CARRIAGE.
YOU TAKE PARN.
OK.

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RECORD OF
LODOSS WAR
The Grey Witch
Story by Ryo Mizuno • Art by Yoshihiro Ochi
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RECORD OF LODOSS WAR

The Grey Witch

Story by Ryo Mizuno

Ryo Mizuno is the world renowned creator of the entire **Record of the Lodoss War** universe. The story you now hold in your hands, **The Grey Witch**, is the first **Lodoss War** story Mr. Mizuno ever wrote. Looking back at all his works, he feels that **The Grey Witch** is the most primitive, from his standpoint as its writer. For this reason, Mr. Mizuno says that he often gets embarrassed after re-reading **The Grey Witch**. However, he loves Mr. Ochi's beautiful illustrations and is extremely satisfied with the way his characters were brought to life in this comic book.

Art by Yoshihiko Ochi

Mr. Ochi would like to share one of his favorite proverbs with **Lodoss War** readers: *"In looking ahead to the future, one must always reflect upon the past."*

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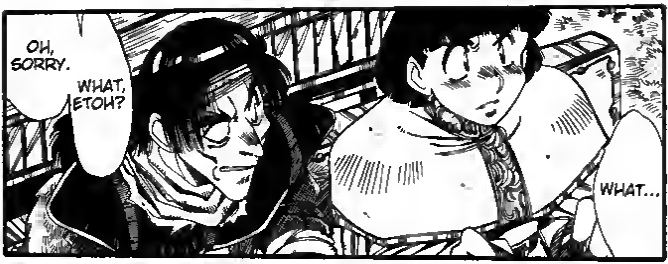
NEIGHHH
ZZZZ
?!
HIS ARMOR LOOKS LIKE THE HOLY KNIGHT'S...
I BETCHA THE REWARD WE GET FROM THE KINGDOM OF VALIS,
WON'T BE NO SMALL AMOUNT...
??

A REWARD LIKE THIS DON'T COME ALONG EVERYDAY.
I COULD PLANT THE CASH IN THE THIEVES' GUILD
AND GET 'EM TO PUT ME IN CHARGE OF A LOCAL UNION
WAIT. I GOT IT. HOW 'BOUT I GET ME MY OWN INN?
THEN I COULD WASH MY HANDS OF THIEVIN'.
!
NAHH. THAT IDEA SUCKS.
I GOTTA MAKE UP FOR TWENTY YEARS IN THE SLAMMER!!
I NEED A GREAT PLAN.
A REALLY GREAT PLAN.
ONE THAT'LL TURN THE WORLD UPSIDE-DOWN.
WOOD...
WOOD!!


OH, SORRY.
WHAT, ETOH?
WHAT...

WHAT DO YOU THINK THAT IS?

OH, THAT BLACK DOT?

IT AIN'T CLOSE ENOUGH TA TELL,
BUT LOOKS LIKE A BIRD.
DO YOU THINK IT'S AN ORDINARY BIRD?

?

WHAD'YA MEAN?

IT'S HOLDING STEADY, BUT GETTING BIGGER AND BIGGER

IT'S COMING STRAIGHT AT US!

IT'S TOO BIG TO BE A NORMAL BIRD!

WAKE UP, SLAYN, WAKE UP PARN!!

HOLY DAMN

IT'S A DRAGON! AIN'T IT?! SLAYN! PARN! GET UP! IT'S SHOWTIME!

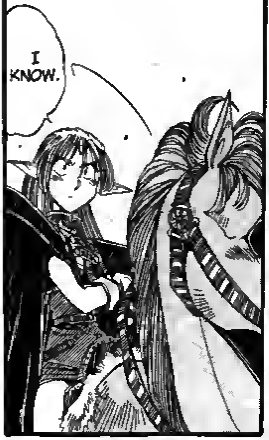
BANG BANG

CLANK!

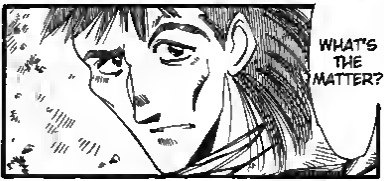
WHOA! WHOA!

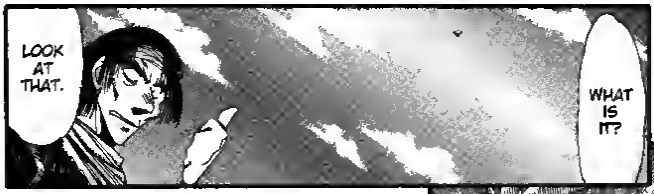
NEIGH

DEED! GHUM!


I KNOW.

HUH?

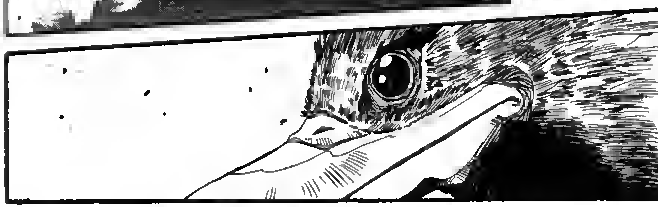

WHAT'S THE MATTER?

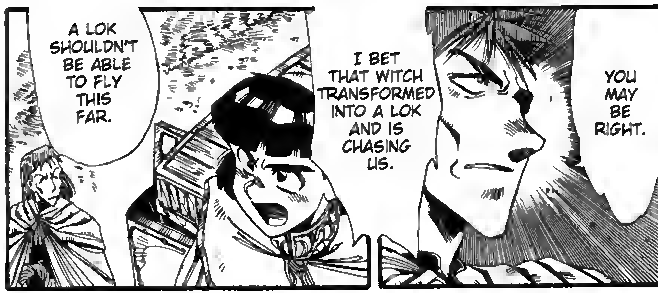

LOOK AT THAT.
WHAT IS IT?

OH MANA,
SOURCE OF ALL MAGIC...
BESTOW UPON THESE EYES..

IT'S A ...

IT CAN'T BE.
IT'S A LOK!!
IT'S A GIGANTIC LEGENDARY BIRD,
RARE EVEN IN THE EASTERN DESERT OF FLAIM.




A LOK SHOULDN'T BE ABLE TO FLY THIS FAR.
I BET THAT WITCH TRANSFORMED INTO A LOK AND IS CHASING US.
YOU MAY BE RIGHT.

WHAT'S GOIN' ON?
YOU'VE GOTTA BE KIDDING?!
WHHOOOOMP!

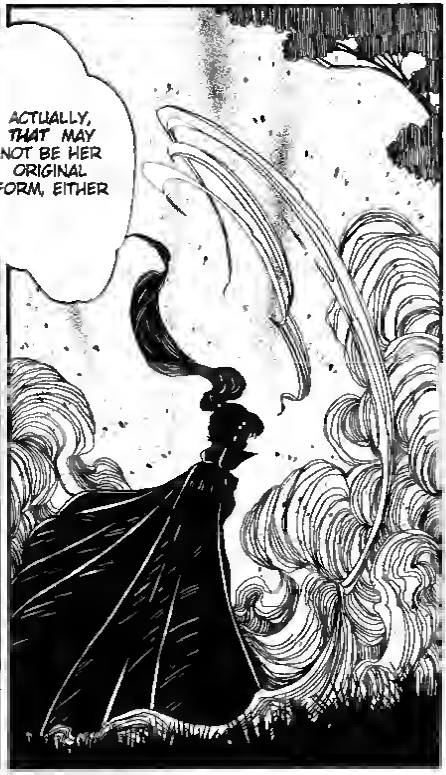
WHOOOMP!
AUGH!
CLANK! CLANK!
WWHOOMP!

OK!

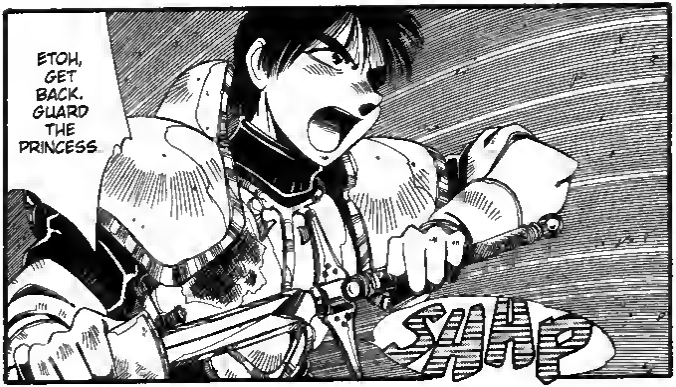
DAMN! I GOT SAND IN MY EYES!!

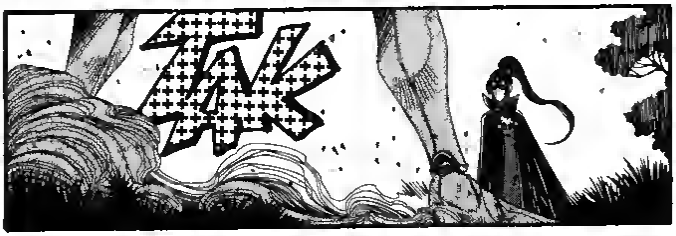
THE BIRD...
DISAPPEARED!!

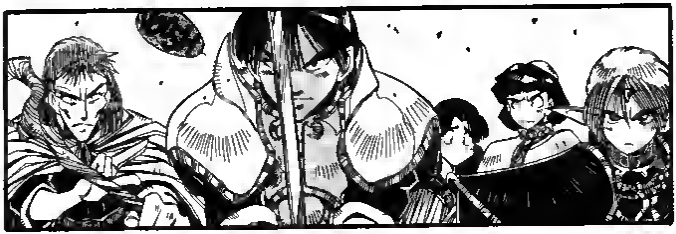
SHE'S JUST TRANSFORMING BACK TO HER ORIGINAL FORM.


ACTUALLY, THAT MAY NOT BE HER ORIGINAL FORM, EITHER

IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME... ACTUALLY, NOT ALL THAT LONG.

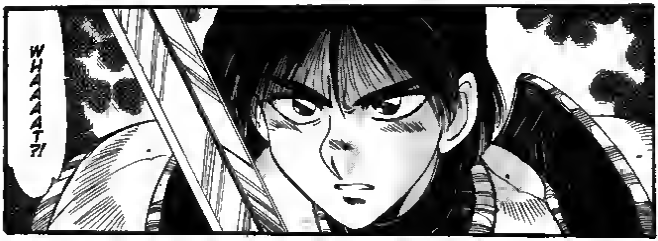

ETOH, GET BACK. GUARD THE PRINCESS.
SHIP

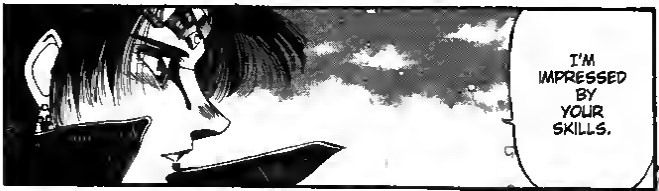

TAK



HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO JOIN FORCES WITH ME?

?!

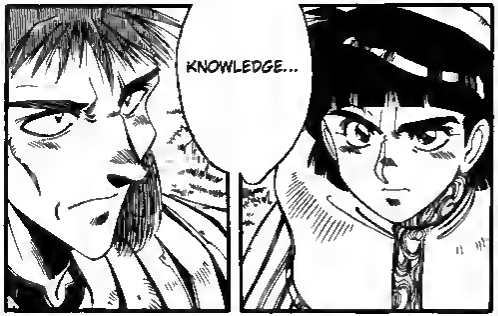

WHAAAAT?!


I'M IMPRESSED BY YOUR SKILLS.

IT WOULD BE A TERRIBLE WASTE TO HAVE TO KILL YOU.
IF YOU JOIN UP WITH ME,
I'LL GRANT YOU...
...YOUR HEARTS' DESIRES.

LIKE WEALTH..

FAME..

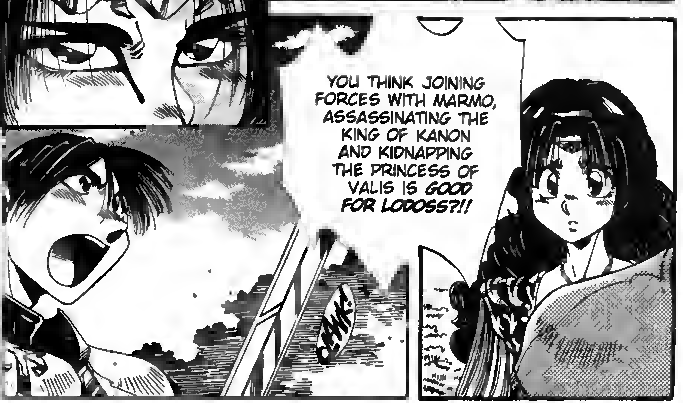

KNOWLEDGE...

...OR A BEAUTIFUL YOUNG WOMAN.

JUST SO THERE'S NO MIS-UNDER-STANDING.....

WHAT I'M DOING WILL BE BEST FOR LODOSS IN THE END.
DON'T YOU THINK THAT WHAT I'M OFFERING YOU WOULD BE MORE MEANINGFUL THAN ENDING UP AS JUST A BUNCH OF ADVENTURERS?

GO TO HELL!!
SHIN


YOU THINK JOINING FORCES WITH MARMO, ASSASSINATING THE KING OF KANON AND KIDNAPPING THE PRINCESS OF VALIS IS GOOD FOR LODOSS?!!
CHIK!

JUST BECAUSE SOMETHING APPEARS A CERTAIN WAY,
DOESN'T MEAN IT'S THE TRUTH
IF YOU WON'T JOIN ME, SO BE IT. HAND OVER THE GIRL AND GO.
WE'LL DO NEITHER!!
FINE. I'LL TURN YOU INTO SPEECHLESS CORPSES RIGHT HERE AND NOW!!

To Be Continued...

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RECORD OF LODOSS WAR

The Grey Witch

Story by Ryo Mizuno
Art by Yoshihiko Ochi

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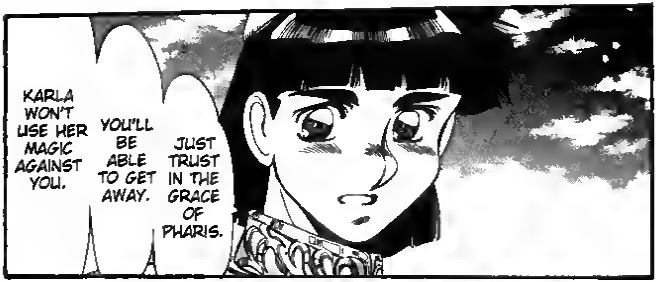
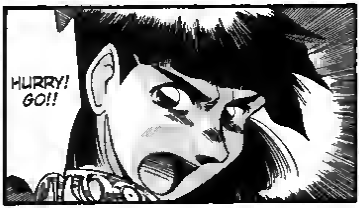
SHAP
TINK
!!
WAIT!!

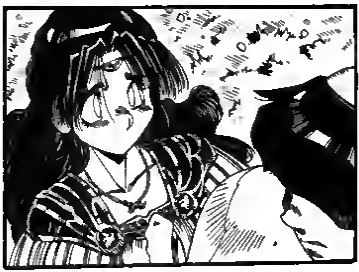
WAIT!
IF I AGREE TO COME WITH YOU,
WOULD YOU LET THEM GO UN-HARMED?
PRINCESS?!
WE WOULDN'T EVEN CONSIDER IT
WHILE THE REST OF US STALL THE WITCH,
TAKE THE HORSE AND HEAD FOR THE FOREST
THEN CONTINUE ON INTO TOWN.
BUT...


KARLA WON'T USE HER MAGIC AGAINST YOU.
YOU'LL BE ABLE TO GET AWAY.
JUST TRUST IN THE GRACE OF PHARIS.

OH PHARIS, GOD OF ABSOLUTE MIGHT,
REVEAL TO ME YOUR SACRED LIGHT!
KOW

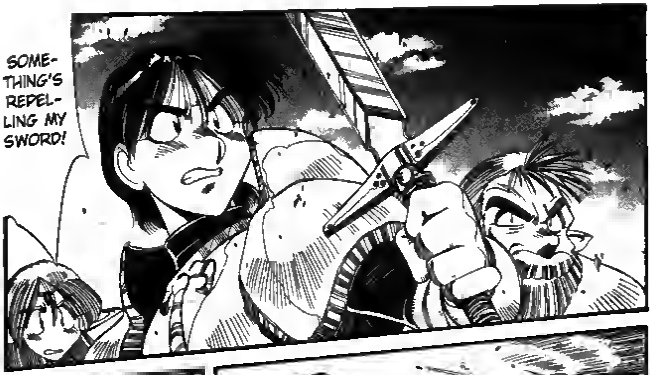
WHAT?!


HURRY! GO!!



OH GREAT MANA, ORIGIN OF CREATION...
PROTECT US FROM THIS DARK VISITATION.
SYLPH, OH SYLPH, MAIDEN SPIRIT OF THE WIND... STILL ALL TURBULENCE... SILENCE ALL WITHIN...

!
!
THEY MUST HAVE USED SYLPH TO STILL THE AIR!
WHAT A CLEVER TRICK!!
I GUESS...
I'LL JUST PUSH THEM BACK TO WHERE THEY'RE POWERLESS
?!


SOME-THING'S REPEL-LING MY SWORD!

IT LOOKS LIKE YOU NO LONGER VALUE YOUR LIVES!!

!!

DAMN! SHE'S PUSHING US BACK!
SHIT!! ISN'T THERE ANYTHING WE CAN DO!?
PAARN!!

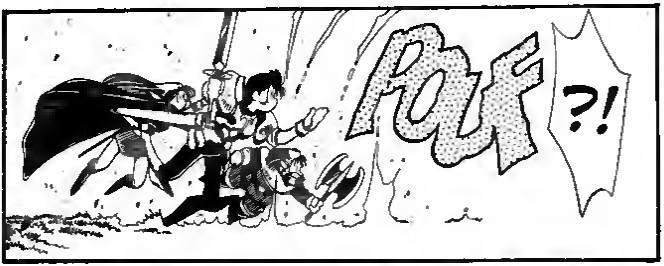
ETOH, LOOK!
?
VALISIAN SOLDIERS!
THERE ARE SO MANY OF THEM.
AND THERE'S ELM, THE PALACE SORCERER, OUT IN FRONT.
ARE YOU SURE?
YES, I'M POSITIVE. I'M STILL USING MY TELESCOPIC SORCERY.
PARN!!
THE KNIGHTS!
THE VALISIAN KNIGHTS ARE COMING!!

!!

THANK GOD!!

HEH

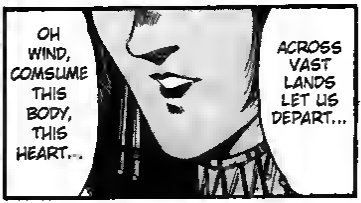
YOU CAN THANK YOUR LUCKY STARS


Pow
?!

CLAP

LET ME WARN YOU.
DON'T SHOW YOUR FACES IN FRONT OF ME AGAIN.
IF YOU DO, DON'T EXPECT A MIRACLE NEXT TIME.
ZIP

!


OH WIND, COMSUME THIS BODY, THIS HEART...
ACROSS VAST LANDS LET US DEPART...

THE HOMING SPELL.
THAT'S THE SPELL OF MARFA, THE GODDESS OF CREATION!!!
IT'S A SPECIAL SPELL ONLY PRIESTS CAN USE
WOW...
THAT WITCH IS ALSO A MARFA PRIEST?

SLAYN, DID YOU JUST SAY MARFA'S SPELL?
Y... YES.
ARE YOU SURE?

YES! I WAS TAUGHT THAT ONLY PRIESTS,
ESPECIALLY HIGH RANKING PRIESTS, CAN USE IT.

YEP. IT'S GOTTA BE HER.

GHIM, IS THERE SOMETHING ABOUT THAT WITCH YOU'RE NOT TELLING US?

EVER SINCE YOU SAW HER PORTRAIT IN KANON, YOU'VE BEEN...

SLAYN.

DON'T ASK ME ANYMORE ABOUT THIS.

WHEN THE TIME COMES...

I'LL TELL YOU.

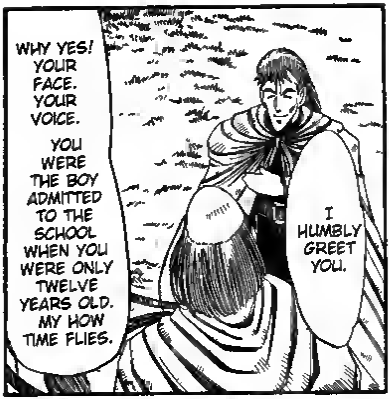
WHAT ON EARTH HAPPENED TO YOU?

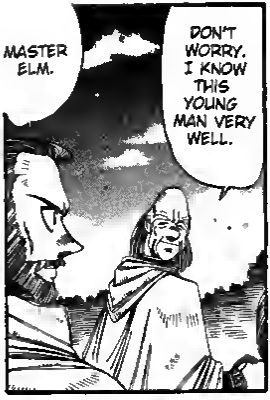
HOW DID YOU LEARN TO USE SUCH ANCIENT SORCERY?

WHY DID YOU SIDE WITH MARMO?

LEYLIA!!

CLOP!
IT SEEMS THE STRUGGLE IS OVER.
IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME, MASTER ELM.
DON'T YOU REMEMBER ME?
I'M SLAYN STARSEEKER.

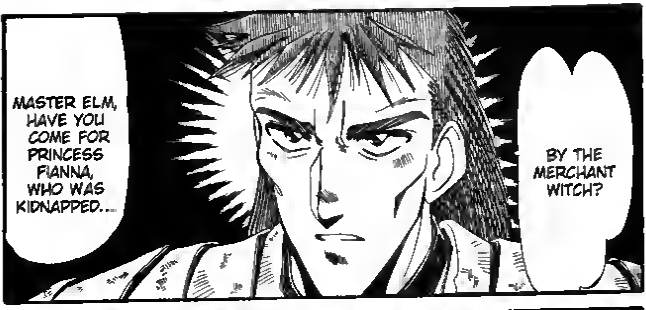

WHY YES! YOUR FACE. YOUR VOICE.
YOU WERE THE BOY ADMITTED TO THE SCHOOL WHEN YOU WERE ONLY TWELVE YEARS OLD. MY HOW TIME FLIES.
I HUMBLY GREET YOU.


MASTER ELM.
DON'T WORRY. I KNOW THIS YOUNG MAN VERY WELL.

TELL ME, SLAYN.
WHAT BRINGS YOU TO THIS PLACE?
THAT WAS YOU FIGHTING WITH SORCERY, WASN'T IT?

YES. WE WERE FIGHTING A WITCH WHO CALLS HERSELF...
A MER-CHANT--?

A WITCH?


MASTER ELM, HAVE YOU COME FOR PRINCESS FIANNA, WHO WAS KIDNAPPED...
BY THE MERCHANT WITCH?

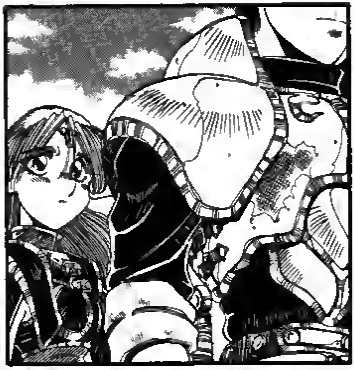
!!
JABBER JABBER

HOW WOULD YOU KNOW THAT?
IT'S A LONG STORY, BUT...

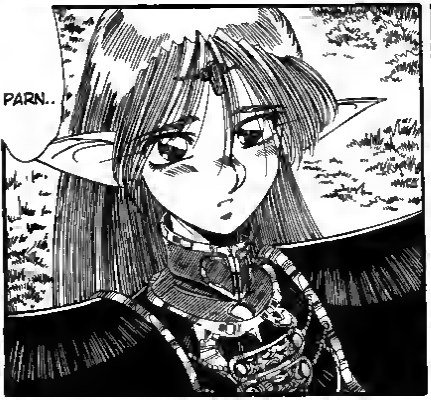
PRINCESS FIANNA IS WITH US.

AH!!
PRIN-CESS!!
PRINCESS FIANNA!!
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?!
CLNK-CLANK

CLANK
CLANK



HIS EYES LOOK EXACTLY THE SAME AS THAT KNIGHT..
THAT WAS GUARDING THE PRINCESS.


PARN..

MY...

MY FATHER, TOO, WAS A HOLY KNIGHT.

!

SO THAT'S WHAT HE WAS TALKING ABOUT AT THE TAVERN

HE WAS A MEMBER OF THIS ORDER

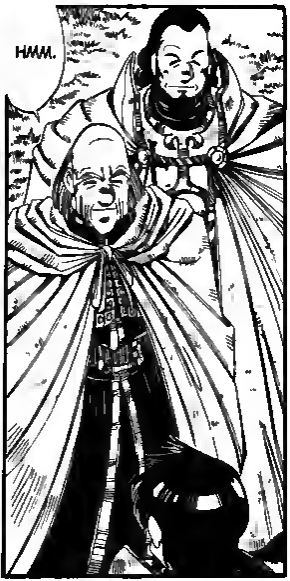
ON THIS VERY BREASTPLATE HE WORE THE EMBLEM OF THE HOLY KNIGHTS..

WE ARE MOST GRATEFUL TO YOU.

IN MY ABSENCE YOU HAVE GROWN INTO A FINE SORCERER

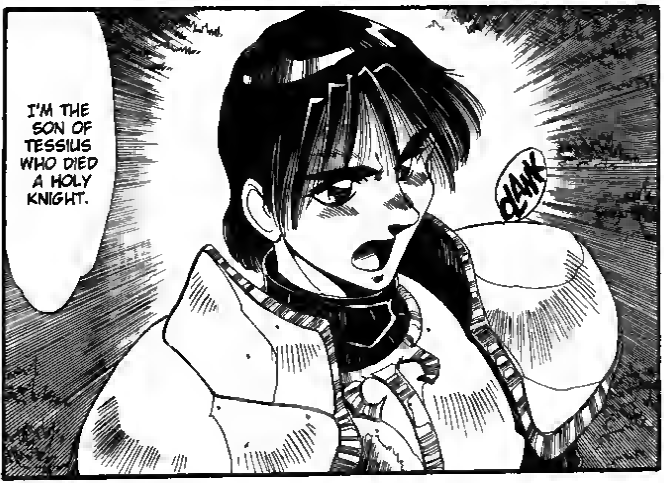
THANK YOU.
BUT, MORE IMPORTANTLY...

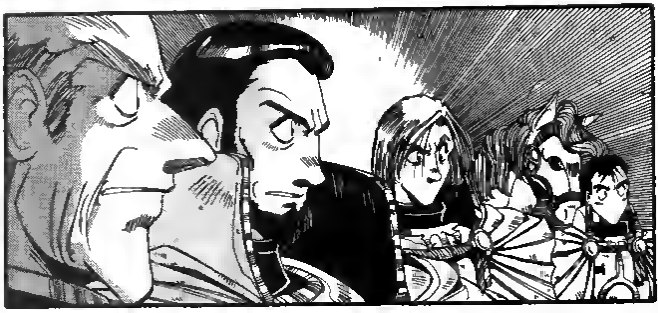
WE WERE ABLE TO RESCUE THE PRINCESS THANKS TO THIS YOUNG MAN'S SWIFT ACTION

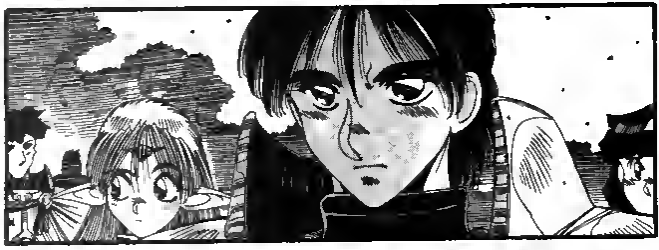

HMM.

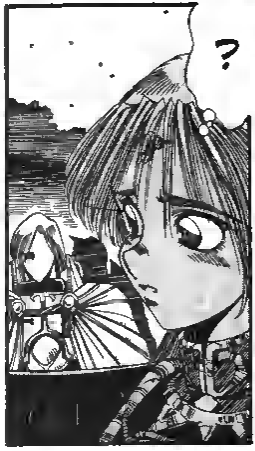
I DON'T THINK WE WOULD HAVE BEEN ABLE TO BRING HER HERE IF IT WEREN'T FOR HIM.

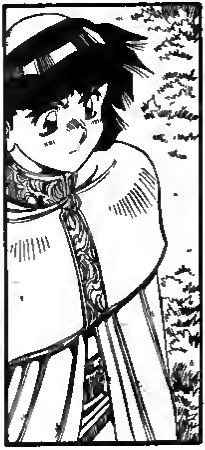
IS THAT SO?
WE ARE MOST GRATEFUL TO YOU.
WHAT IS YOUR NAME, YOUNG SOLDIER?
I AM PARN, SIR.

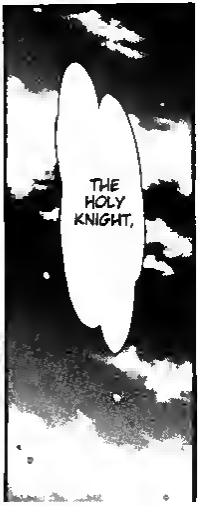

I'M THE SON OF TESSIUS WHO DIED A HOLY KNIGHT.
clink











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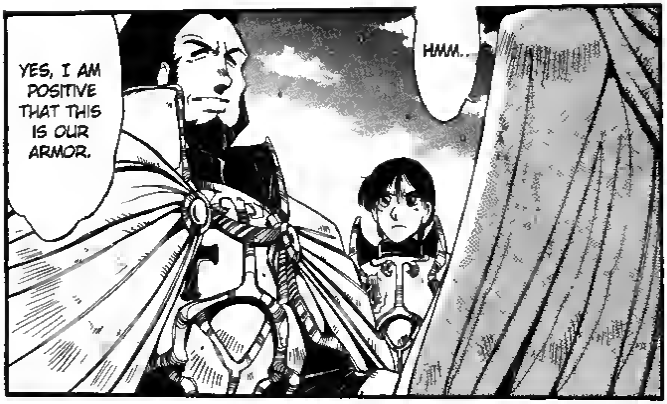
REALLY?!
ARE YOU REALLY THE SON OF TESSIUS?
YES, SIR.
THE ARMOR I AM WEARING IS MY PROOF.
THIS ARMOR IS OLD AND STAINED,
BUT IT WAS THE ARMOR WORN BY MY FATHER.
IT IS THE AUTHENTIC ARMOR OF THE VALISIAN KNIGHTS.
IT APPEARS TO BE SO, SIR ELM.


YES, I AM POSITIVE THAT THIS IS OUR ARMOR.
HMM...

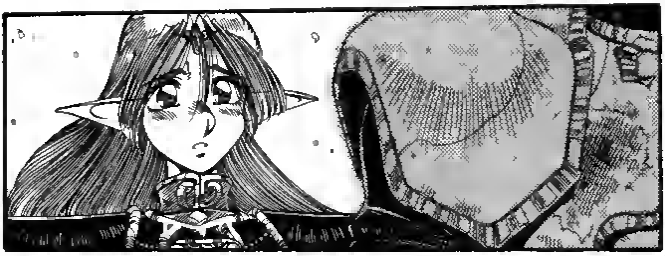
IF YOU ARE SURE, IT MUST BE SO.
AND...
NO ONE SAYS THE NAME "TESSILIS" WITHOUT KNOWING HIM.

ETOH.

WON'T YOU PLEASE TELL ME...

HOW MY FATHER DIED?
MY MOTHER WOULD NEVER TELL ME.
ALL SHE EVER SAID WAS, "BELIEVE IN THE VALIANT BLOOD OF YOUR FATHER."

BUT, ACCORDING TO RUMOR,
THEY SAY HE WAS A COWARD AND GAVE UP HIS KNIGHTHOOD
MY FATHER DIED IN DISGRACE.



YOUR MOTHER WAS NOT MISTAKEN.

IT LOOKS LIKE I WILL HAVE TO TELL YOU THE STORY OF YOUR FATHER, SIR TESSILIS.

YOUR FATHER BROKE A RULE OF THE ORDER OF HOLY KNIGHTS...

IT IS TRUE.

BUT HIS DEATH WAS BY NO MEANS A DISGRACE.

HE RISKED HIS LIFE IN AN ATTEMPT TO PROTECT A SMALL VILLAGE FROM BANDITS...

HE FOUGHT ALONE.

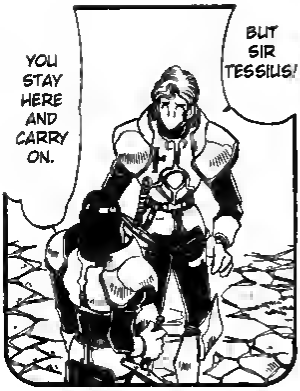
BACK THEN...

VALIS WAS READYING ITSELF FOR AN INVASION BY NOMADS FROM THE DESERT.

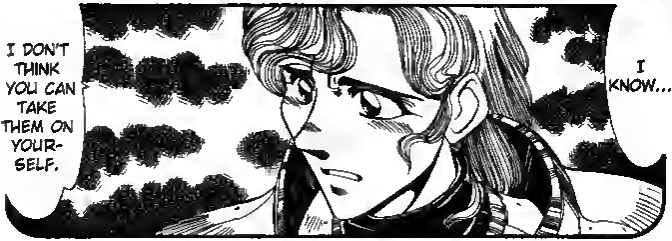
YOUR FATHER, TESSIUS, AND ONE OTHER YOUNG KNIGHT...

WERE ASSIGNED THE DUTY OF PROTECTING THE NORTHERN BORDER.

I UNDER-STAND...
CLANK
BUT WE ARE FOR-BIDDEN TO LEAVE OUR POST.
WE NEED TO KEEP WATCH IN CASE OF A NOMADIC INVASION. BUT...
HOW-EVER..
..ONE GUARD IS ENOUGH TO DETECT AN INVA-SION...
...AND REPORT IT TO ROID.


YOU STAY HERE AND CARRY ON.
BUT SIR TESSIUS!

I KNOW THEY'RE JUST BANDITS, BUT THERE ARE SO MANY OF THEM.


I DON'T THINK YOU CAN TAKE THEM ON YOUR-SELF.
I KNOW...

...BUT I CAN'T TAKE YOU WITH ME.
THE RULES OF THE ORDER ARE STRICT! NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS, WE HAVE TO CARRY OUT OUR ASSIGN-MENT.

EVEN IF YOU HELP ME SAVE THE VILLAGE AND COME BACK SAFELY, IF YOU DISOBEY A RULE...

YOU WILL BE PUNISHED!

YOU ARE STILL YOUNG.

YOU HAVE MANY YEARS AHEAD TO DEFEND VALIS.

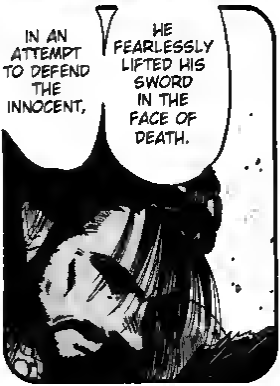
THIS IS NOT THE TIME TO RISK YOUR LIFE.

SIR TESSIUS...

THANKS TO SIR TESSIUS, THE VILLAGE NARROWLY ESCAPED ...

...TOTAL DESTRUCTION.

BUT TESSIUS DIDN'T RETURN FROM BATTLE.



BUT...

THE HOLY ORDER OF KNIGHTS CANNOT PERMIT ANY EXCEPTIONS.
TO DO SO WOULD DISRUPT UNITY WITHIN THE ORDER.
SO THE RULES MUST BE TREATED AS SACRED.

THERE WAS NO OTHER CHOICE BUT TO STRIP HIM OF HIS RANK.

HOW-EVER..

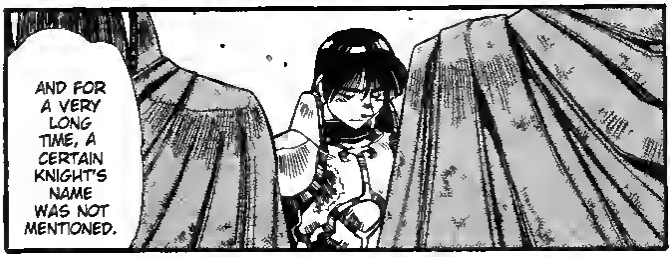
THE PEOPLE WHO KNOW THE TRUTH..

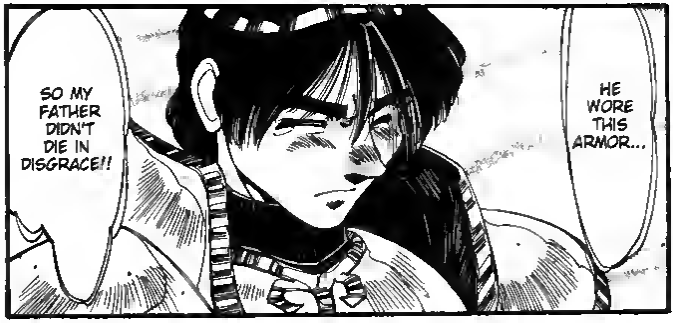
RESPECT HIM FOR HIS COURAGE.
YOU MUST BELIEVE IN THE VALIANT BLOOD OF YOUR FATHER.
IS ALL THIS...
TRUE?
YES, IT'S TRUE! AS HOLY KNIGHTS ....
WE HOLD THE NAME TESSIUS IN HIGH REGARD.

BUT WE WERE NOT PERMITTED TO PRAISE HIS VALIANCE ALOUD,
NOR TELL THE TRUTH ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED

SO FALSE RUMORS BEGAN TO SPREAD ..

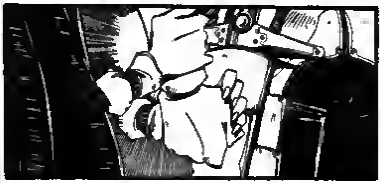
AND THE RUMORS WERE ALL BAD.

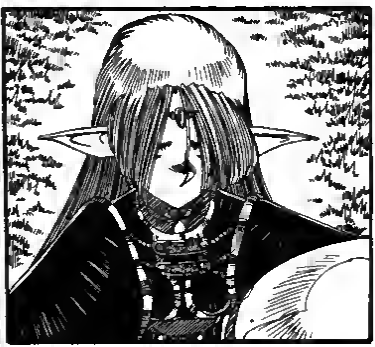

AND FOR A VERY LONG TIME, A CERTAIN KNIGHT'S NAME WAS NOT MENTIONED.

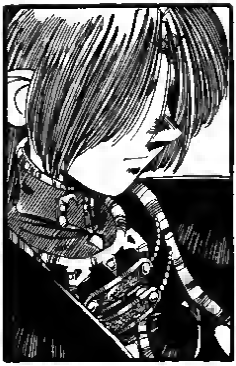

SO MY FATHER DIDN'T DIE IN DISGRACE!!
HE WORE THIS ARMOR...

FIGHTING TO DEFEND A SMALL VILLAGE,
IN SPITE OF THE RULES
NOW I'M PROUD OF THIS ARMOR AND OF THE COURAGE..

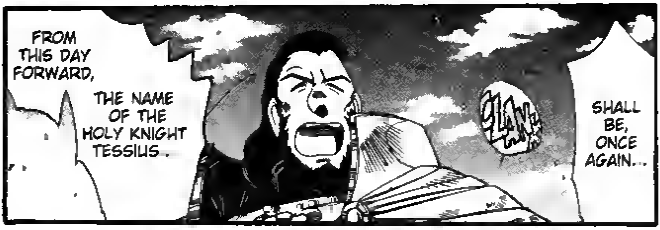
MY MOTHER NEVER ONCE DOUBTED!

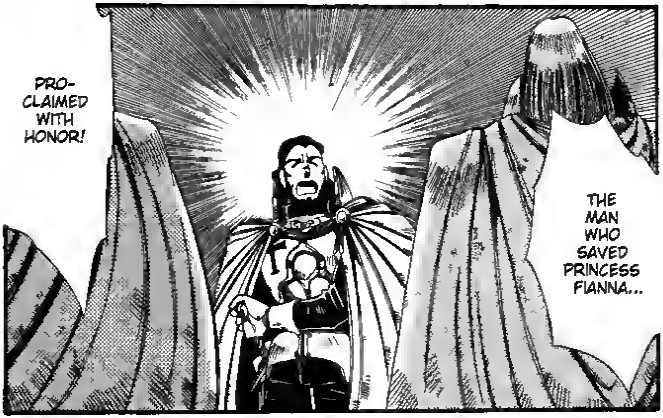


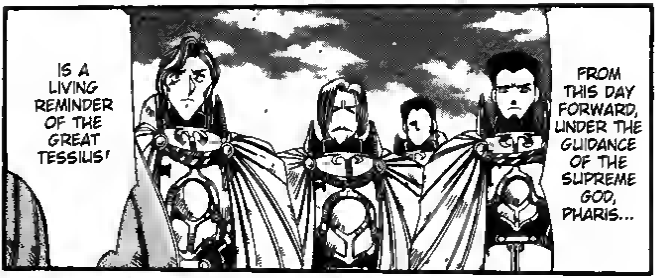




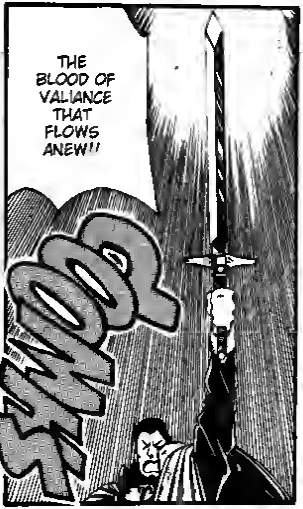
SQUEEZ

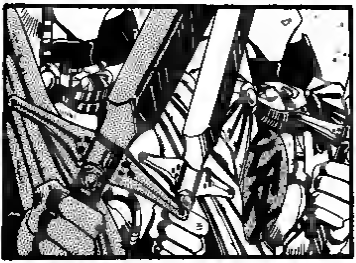

FROM THIS DAY FORWARD,
THE NAME OF THE HOLY KNIGHT TESSIUS.
SLAM!
SHALL BE, ONCE AGAIN...

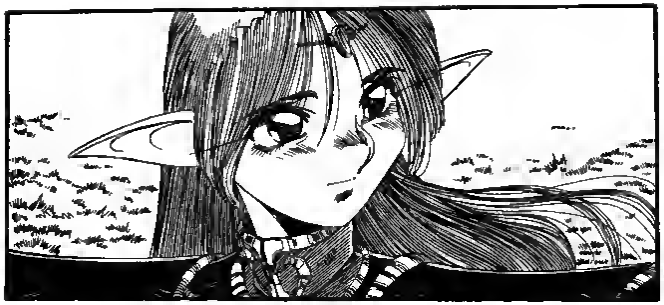

PRO-CLAIMED WITH HONOR!
THE MAN WHO SAVED PRINCESS FIANNA...


IS A LIVING REMINDER OF THE GREAT TESSILIS!
FROM THIS DAY FORWARD, UNDER THE GUIDANCE OF THE SUPREME GOD, PHARIS...

WE SHALL PRAISE THE COUR-AGE...
OF THE HOLY KNIGHT TESSILIS! AND...

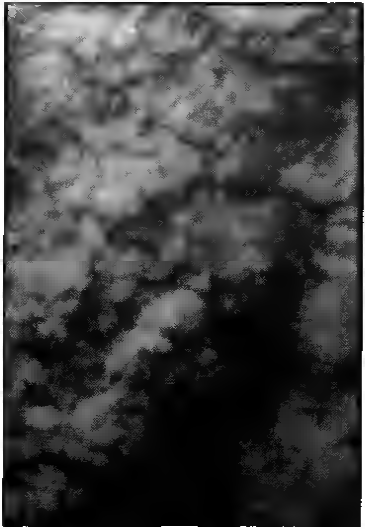

THE BLOOD OF VALIANCE THAT FLOWS ANEW!!
SWOOP





OH PHARIS...
THANK YOU..
FOR THE BLOOD OF TESSIUS...

WHICH FLOWS THROUGH MY VEINS!!



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